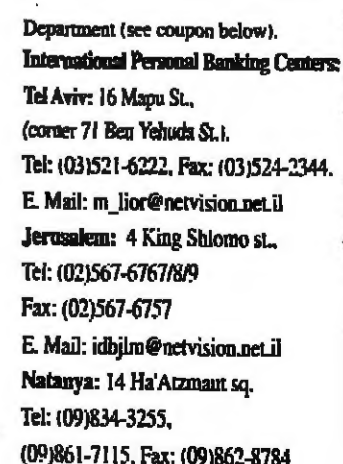


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Arab leaders, including Hadash

See RIOTS, Page 21

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Mordechai: We can protect our citizens from Iran threat

By LIAT COLLINS

Israel has the necessary deterrence and means of protecting its citizens from the Iranian missile threat, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday. He rejected as "redundant and harmful" the call by Labor MK Ephraim Sneh for Israel to launch a preemptive strike against Iran.

Speaking with reporters following a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Mordechai also warned Iran against attacking Israel with the Shihab-3 missiles it has been testing and displaying.

In an interview in the Dubai daily *Al Itihad*, Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamhaneh yesterday warned of a harsh Iranian reaction to an Israeli attack on Syria.

"If Israel attacks Syria, we will respond in a way the Israelis cannot imagine," Shamhaneh said. "Syria is a friendly country and our

relations with it are strategic. We won't agree to any threat against a sister nation and we will respond powerfully against any attack."

Shamhaneh also threatened Israel with a "stunning response" if it attacks the Iranian nuclear reactor in Bushwehr or any other vital facility in Iran.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded from New York, saying, "The time has come... to organize the international community against the Iranian ballistic threat. It threatens all of us and international peace," he told Israel Radio after meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"This marks a very severe strategic threat against Israel," he said. "The Shihab-4 and Shihab-5 are in the pipeline. They will reach deep into Europe and to the US. I stressed this in my talks with world leaders."

Mordechai has stressed the Iranian threat with virtually all for-

eign dignitaries, including US Deputy Secretary of Defense for Policy Walter Slocombe. A Defense Ministry spokesman said Mordechai and Slocombe exchanged assessments on Iran's missile program and its drive for nuclear weapons.

"In the long term we are doing everything necessary to defend our country and our people and we know that we can deter Iran from doing anything against our population and our country," Mordechai said. "The Iranians know our capabilities and I don't advise them to threaten us."

Mordechai said Israel's Arrow anti-missile missile, together with civil defense and other "special capabilities," will provide a long-term solution.

Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) also criticized Sneh for unnecessarily spreading panic. But Sneh told reporters after the meeting it is only a matter of time before Iran develops a nuclear weapon

capable of hitting Israel and said this is an undoubted strategic threat to the country's existence.

"What I said is that Israel should build the capability to strike any Iranian facilities which could bring about the destruction of the Jewish state," Sneh clarified. "We have to build a new deterrent. The present deterrent is not enough."

He, like MKs across the political spectrum, called for an increase to the defense budget.

Landau said Sneh had erred in making his statement.

"It's a mistake, because if you want to do it, then do it; don't talk about it. If you talk about it you let your enemy get ready for it. And I think it is a mistake, because Iran has other immediate strategic interests in the Gulf area vis-a-vis the US, Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan."

The Mossad largely views the anti-Israeli statements from Tehran as an easy way to win Arab and Islamic political support for its

drive toward regional domination.

Hebrew University Prof. Ehud Sprinzak agreed. He said both Israel and the US have concluded that Iran does not represent a strategic threat.

"The [Shihab-3] missile is not directed at us," he said. "We are maybe number four or five on their list."

Landau returned last week from the US, where he led a bipartisan delegation of MKs to discuss the missile threat. He said the development of Boost-Phase-Interception missiles will be a deterrent and response to the new threats, since they will be able to hit incoming missiles soon after launch, so debris from their warheads falls on the country that fired it.

He said the US is beginning to understand that the missile threat faces not only Israel, but other US allies throughout the region and even the US itself.

Steve Rodan contributed to this report.

Burger King, Burger Ranch form nation's largest fast-food chain

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Hold the pickles, hold the lettuce! Fast-food franchises Burger King and Burger Ranch yesterday announced a merger that will create the nation's largest fast food company, valued at some \$30-\$40 million.

Under the agreement, Burger King - which is controlled by businessmen Meshulam Riklis and Yair Hason - will own 50 percent of the merged company, while Burger Ranch - which is owned by Paz Oil Co. and businessman Ron Lapid - will control the remaining 50%.

The two sides declined to supply further details about the deal.

According to the agreement the companies will continue to act separately, while joining some of their activities.

In the future, some of Burger Ranch's outlets will be transferred to Burger King, but the chain will continue to operate independently, since each company caters to a different clientele, according to Burger King CEO Kobi Hayon.

The merger, he added, is aimed at making both chains more efficient. "We will form joint headquarters and a company that will provide services to both chains," he said.

Burger Ranch is the country's largest hamburger chain, with annual sales of some NIS 200m. last year. The company employs 2,500 workers and operates 74 restaurants, of which 67 are owned by franchisees.

Paz purchased 74% of Burger Ranch last year and plans to open outlets in its gas stations.

Burger King, which is represented in Israel by Rikamor, started operating here in 1994. The US's second largest hamburger chain owns 42 restaurants and has sales of NIS 104m.

The companies' main rival is global fast-food leader McDonald's, whose local annual sales total NIS 150m.-170m., according to industry sources.

The merger between the two hamburger chains is expected to take effect at the beginning of 1999 once all the necessary approvals have been granted.

Likud leaders oppose move to oust Meridor

By SARAH HONIG

The Likud leadership strongly opposes any attempt to oust MK Dan Meridor from the party. This emerged last night as the Likud's internal court began a hearing on two petitions to expel Meridor. No decision has yet been reached, but any move against Meridor is considered highly unlikely.

The consensus in the Likud is that no steps will be taken against Meridor, primarily because any such move would be seen as inexpedient at a time when the government's majority in the Knesset is extremely slim. If the Likud moved against Meridor it would inevitably lose his Knesset seat. Meridor is at least nominally a party member and the Likud doesn't want to push him any further, even if he has not always been voting with the Likud.

Likud secretariat chairman Health Minister Yehoshua Mazza, who generally voices the opinions of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, argued yesterday that the party court has no jurisdiction in the matter and that only the Likud Knesset faction and the party's elected forums can take any action against Meridor.

The petitions came from veteran activist Avraham Appel and Gilad Arden, head of the Likud young guard. Both called for Meridor's ouster after he voted with the opposition for early elections.

Likud legal adviser Eitan Haberman answered the petitions in the spirit outlined by Mazza, when he noted that according to long-standing party tradition, the Likud court is prohibited from interfering in the manner in which the party MKs conduct themselves in the Knesset.

GENERALI

Continued from Page 1

The Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* said this was because the agreement stipulated there should be no additional payments to the \$100m. settlement, and while there is still outstanding legal action against Generali by families, the company feels it cannot honor its letter of intent.

The Yad Vashem figure is based on a disc given to the organization by Generali for research purposes only. Demands are now increasing for all the 340,000 names on the disc to be made public, and in particular those of the 100,000-plus Jews that died in the Holocaust.

Senn is calling on Generali to release the names to both the Israeli government and the insurance commissioners, who meet today to discuss the issue.

However, Shalev explained that in his arrangement with Generali the names would not be published.

Until such time as the list is published and Generali makes an appropriate payment, MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) is demanding that Generali's stake in Migdal Insurance, Israel's largest insurer, be placed in escrow.

In 1996, Generali purchased a

stake in Migdal for some \$330m. from Bank Leumi, Migdal's majority shareholder.

Leumi Chairman Eitan Raff last night refused to be drawn into the fray but, commenting to the Post for the first time since the story broke, said Leumi "had no choice but to sell Migdal, according to its legal requirement. Generali had been a partner of Bank Leumi for 50 years and they won the tender. All this issue arose after the sale."

A Generali representative last night denied the company owes any money to families of policy holders, saying the agreement to pay \$100m. was neither a legal nor a moral obligation but a gesture of goodwill.

The representative added that negotiations have not broken down, but the August 19 deal stipulated that if "certain harmonizations" of agreement did not take place, Generali would follow the track of a recently formed international commission rather than that of the payment of \$100m. until harmonization takes place.

Yad Vashem, meanwhile, is still completing its research on the Generali list and hundreds of others by hand. Shalev called for the international community to donate the \$8m. needed to computerize the process.

Knesset panel chides Mofaz

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz was reportedly criticized by a subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday for his response to the incident in which an armed terrorist succeeded in penetrating an IDF outpost in Lebanon and escaping.

The MKs reportedly said Mofaz had erred in criticizing the unarmed soldier who had grappled with the intruder. "There was no place for disciplinary action against the soldier who acted well," the subcommittee apparently determined. *Liat Collins*

SIMCHA (Motro) DUBITZKY

of Miami Beach, FL,
widow of Aaron Dubitzky,
died September 25, 1998.

Born in Jerusalem, she lived most of her life in the United States.

Mourning by:
Son Theodore Dubitzky and wife Deborah (Israel)
Daughters Ann Cope and husband Bernard (West Hartford, CT)
and Aviva Budd and husband Martin (Stamford, CT)
Sisters Deborah Bitu and Miriam Goldschmidt (Israel)
and two brothers in the United States

The burial was on Monday in Beth El Temple Cemetery, Avon, CT.

Even in Germany, time for a change

ANALYSIS

By DAN GERSTENFELD

BONN, (Reuters) - Even in stability-obsessed Germany, sometimes it's time for a change.

Yesterday's long-awaited election swapped out the faces at the top, defeating Chancellor Helmut Kohl after a record 16 years and bringing in the sick Social Democrat Gerhard Schröder.

The end of the Kohl era, the departure of the man who dominated German politics since 1982 and European integration for at least a decade - that in itself is a big change.

But a closer look at the result and electoral analyses shows voters may not have sought that much change after all. Schröder's main message was "Thanks Helmut, but now that's enough."

He vowed to continue Kohl's foreign policy. Despite the campaign rhetoric, economists think he will pursue similar economic policies with only a few left-wing touches.

Last night, the SPD had advanced strongly - to 41 percent compared to the CDU's 35 percent - but it was not clear whether the leftward shift would be enough to give Schröder a stable majority with the ecologist Greens.

"The electorate voted Kohl out more than it voted Schröder in," political scientist Joachim Raschke remarked.

British historian Timothy Garton Ash, referring to Labour's victory last year, told ZDF television: "It's all very familiar to me. When a party has governed for 16 years, like the CDU or the Conservatives in Britain, then it's time for a change."

Munich's liberal *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* commented: "The audience's fatigue won out. Helmut Kohl held power so long, 16 years long, because his way of exercising power had something soothing, almost banal about it."



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, with his wife Hannelore at his side, concedes defeat last night. (Reuters)

"But towards the end, the feeling got stronger and stronger that the same old song was no longer good for new times."

At 68, Kohl was one of the dwindling number of German leaders who experienced his country's darkest hours - the Nazi era, the 1945 defeat and the Holocaust - and the postwar struggle to build a democratic and prosperous Germany.

In many ways, the consensus-minded policies he pursued since becoming chancellor in 1982 took the sting out of the old left-right confrontations that previously dom-

inated politics.

His firm leadership in 1989-1990, when he seized the chance to absorb a collapsing East Germany into a reunited fatherland, was such an historic achievement that Schröder regularly praised it in his campaign speeches.

But while Kohl towered over national politics and made reunited Germany's new influence felt in Europe, record unemployment - over 10 percent - and the pressing need for tax and pension reforms undermined his government's support.

The legislative logjam of recent

years, when Kohl's coalition was unable to pass many reforms because of opposition from the SPD, heightened the feeling that the old fox had reached the end of the road.

Kohl was also cornered by the timetable for Europe's planned monetary union (EMU), the other great goal of his career. His single-minded support for the euro was crucial for its success and stepping down before it was launched could have scuttled the whole process.

But membership of the single currency was not going to be decided

until the spring of 1998, too late for the CDU to wait for him to declare his candidacy. So he threw his hat in the ring long in advance. In April 1997, to ensure he played a role in promoting EMU until the final decisions were made.

But his determined pro-European course was less and less popular among voters, since it was linked with the surrender of the deutschemark and austerity policies to qualify for the euro.

"In a way, Kohl was defeated because of the only political idea he ever had - Europe," the left-wing daily *Tageszeitung* commented.

Oompah-pah and the rocking reds

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By THOMAS O'DWYER

foreigner, an official earlier assured us. One of its senior people is married to - an Austrian."

We all stood cold and aching in front of the *rauhaus* for one hour, as Stoiber insisted Bavaria's way is Germany's way and that both must preserve their "homogeneous" Christian culture. Then came Kohl, more moderate and statesmanlike as usual, who rambled on nostalgically for an hour and a half, as if saying good-bye.

The end of his speech was interrupted by the elaborate glockenspiel chimes from the tower of the town hall. You couldn't get more German, more Bavarian. There was not a black face nor a Turkish visage to be seen in the huge crowd.

The cavernous circular Berlin Velodrome, a huge cycle track, was built in a vain effort to impress the Olympic committee for the year 2000. It holds 10,000 and it was packed for the last triumphant rally of Gerhard Schröder's Socialists.

For an hour, it was a rock concert pure and simple - there was not an oompah to be heard from any synthesizer or a glockenspiel from any tower. The vast blue sea bore one simple motto on a red circle - *Die neue Mitte* (the New Center). Thank you Tony Blair, great idea.

A hit singer of the 1980s, Anna Haugis, sang "Let It Be." The all-

black American Weather Girls group notched up the folk rock and were followed by the spectacular German group City, who roared to fame in the old East Germany.

With their electronic fiddles and powerful Celtic rock, they brought the house down in time for the grand entrance of Schröder, his cover-girl fourth wife, and the mass media, who can't get enough of the rising star of the new Germany.

Unlike the cold winds we endured in Munich square, we, the guest media, were seated in warm comfort in the second row of the show. No wonder the media tend to the left. Schröder tore into Kohl's record, the exploiters of guest

workers. "Putting people from abroad in crates on building sites and paying them minimum wages is simply criminal," he railed. We Israelis looked at one another. Sounds familiar.

Suddenly everyone was standing and cheering - it was over. "Vote, vote vote," said Schröder. "Vote if it's raining. Bring granny to vote - but only if she's SPD." And the rocking reds made a grand exit, hand in hand, to the music of "Nothing Can Stop Us Now," the party anthem.

As we trooped out to the nothing-can-stop-us theme, it was not hard to imagine the cries of "Kohl, Kohl, Kohl!" at his last rally in distant Mainz. If anything can stop them...

The joke of the campaign has been: "If Kohl had been the *Titanic*, the iceberg would have sunk."

Israeli Arabs, security forces have violent history

BACKGROUND

By DAVID KUPIC

Rioting in the streets of Umm el-Fahm and along the Wadi Ara road are not new in the history of relations between Israeli Arabs and the security forces.

Just over 22 years ago in the Galilee villages of Sakhnin, Araba, and Deir Hana, there was a similar occurrence - only then the police and security forces did not have rubber bullets. The results on that occasion - the first ever Land Day demonstration to protest the

expropriation of Arab-owned land - were bloody and the fighting was bitter.

Six Arabs were killed and scores of demonstrators and members of the security forces were injured.

Since then, there have been clashes on the streets of Nazareth, in Umm el-Fahm, and in other parts of the country for different reasons, while commemorations of Land Day have usually passed quietly.

But the land issue still unites the Arab public in a way that few other matters can. When the question of the land in the Wadi Ara region came to the fore a month ago, the writing was already on the wall. The fact that a compromise was

not reached beforehand, however, might be more connected to the upcoming municipal elections and the desire of candidates and parties to score political points on such an emotional subject, rather than the issue itself.

The dilemma facing the authorities was to allow the protest tent to remain and after a month face the prospect of legal battles to remove the demonstrators, who by then would have "squatters rights," or to

act prior to a compromise being reached.

For the security forces, concerned about growing support for the fundamentalist Islamic Movement and its political and social activities, the latter option may have had some side benefits. At the end of the day, however, both sides will have to sit around the negotiating table, or face the risk more disturbances that could get out of control.

سكنا من الاصل

J'lem railway plan unveiled

By AMY KLEIN

Transport Minister of Shaul Yahalom and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday unveiled the Jerusalem Mass Transit System Project, and they will submit the plans to the municipal building and planning committee on Thursday.

Eight above-ground railway lines crisscrossing the city will be built by 2020, the project's coordinators said. The first line - 15 kilometers of rail running from Pisgat Ze'ev in the north through the Old City, the center of town, and the central bus station to Kiryat Menahem - will be completed by 2004.

The light railway system will supplement the local Egged bus lines, which would be cut from 44 to 25, rerouted to serve local neighborhoods by the time entire project is completed.

The first line will cost \$400,000. The entire project - eight lines, 100 trains, each able to carry 500 passengers - will cost an estimated \$1.3 billion.

The first line will also require an additional NIS 200 million to prepare the underground infrastructure - water, sewage, electricity, and telephone. The last two years of planning - with over 80 local and foreign consultants - cost NIS 50 million.

Yahalom said he hopes they will find a private buyer, transfer, operate investor to fund the project. But even if they can't, he said, "and the government has to fully fund the project, the sum is equivalent to the Transport Ministry's annual budget for Jerusalem - \$100,000."

Five foreign contractors are

expected to bid to build the infrastructure.

Yahalom said the railway would reduce traffic in the city. It would also return business to the center of town, he said. He estimated that 25,000 drivers would switch to public transportation.

Cost of a ride on the railroad will be commensurate with current bus fares at about NIS 4.30, with available "transfers" - free fare to connecting bus lines.

Some at Egged will oppose the project, said Moshe Hirsh, the director of the Jerusalem Master Plan Team, the non-profit organization, which is overseeing the project. "Egged will be losing out on income, but since the government is in charge of Egged, a solution will be organized," Hirsh said.

Egged's spokesman, Ron Ratner, said Egged is part of the project team and welcomes the railroad project, as opposed to a competing bus company. "There is a need for trains and we are a partner in the project," Ratner said. "The trains will serve the main routes and the buses will serve the neighborhoods. It will solve problems of traffic and the carnage on the roads."

The eight train lines will service most of the neighborhoods on the capital's periphery, including Ramot, Neveh Ya'acov, Har Nof, and Gilo - but almost neglect the entire eastern section, with stops only at Damascus Gate in the Old City.

Most of the rail will be laid above ground, with about five underground stations. The rail cars, attached to electric cables, will run on the roads but will bypass traffic lights.

Confrontation line communities close roads to protest cutbacks

By DAVID RUDGE

Thousands of residents of confrontation line communities closed junctions across the length of the northern border road yesterday to protest planned cutbacks in benefits and incentives.

Demonstrators burned tires and formed human barricades at junctions from Nahariya on the coast to Sassa in the central region and the Koah intersection on the main road leading to and from Kiryat Shmona.

The protesters held aloft placards calling on ministers to honor their promises to ensure the continuation of additional assistance to residents of communities near the Lebanese border.

"They only remember us when Katyusha rockets are fired at our communities, and then all the politicians come," said one of the demonstrators. "We want to say clearly that we are fed up."

Another protester said the demonstration was not just against plans by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to cut tax benefits, which range from 15 percent for residents of most towns and villages in the confrontation line area, to up to 20% in Kiryat Shmona.

She said the education system was not as good in the North as in other parts of the country and that the road network was also poor and employment prospects were bleak given the scarcity of industry in the region.

Shlomi local council head Israel



Protesters demonstrate against planned cutbacks in benefits and incentives yesterday at the Koah intersection leading to Kiryat Shmona. (Avihu Shapira/Israel Sun)

Avakar said that if the government approved Neeman's proposals, high-income earners would leave the region to the detriment of all.

Municipal services in towns and villages throughout the region were shut down and all schools and kindergartens were closed, except in Kiryat Shmona, which did not join in the 24-hour warning strike called by the forum of heads of the

confrontation line communities.

The forum is pressing the government to extend for a further two years the tax breaks and additional benefits, amounting to NIS 380 million a year, that the region has received since Operation Grapes of Wrath in April 1996.

Forum chairman Shlomo Buhbut, who is also mayor of Ma'alot-Tarshiha, said that despite the

absence of Kiryat Shmona, residents of the North had shown that they mean business.

"We are now demanding an immediate meeting with the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and we will be demanding solutions to all of the problems, not just the proposed cuts in tax benefits," said Buhbut. "If he refuses or there is no positive response we will

decide on further protest measures after Succot, which will be felt in the center of the country not just in the North."

Benzion Zilberfarb, director-general of the Treasury, said in response that confrontation line residents would be receiving preferential treatment, within the framework of the limitations of the 1999 budget.

Survey finds educated 'Post Internet Edition' readers

By JUDY SIEGEL

The first on-line readership survey by *The Jerusalem Post Internet Edition* since it began three years ago has found that a significant percentage of readers are high-income professionals, and that over half of those abroad intend to visit here next year.

Over 7,200 people responded to the one-day survey as they entered the site at <http://www.jpost.co.il> (in Israel) or <http://www.jpost.com> (in the US) on Wednesday, September 9.

Of those living abroad, more than two-fifths had been to Israel at least four times, and only 21% had never been here before; 31% visited during the past year and 48% bought goods on-line last year. Not surprisingly, 33% have a college education and 40% post-graduate degrees. Fully 65% of the readers live in the US, and nearly 86% are men.

Nearly 32% of the readers surveyed are aged 25 to 39 and almost 27% aged 40 to 49. The majority of those polled are in accounting or finance, computer related jobs, consulting, education, engineering, government or military, legal services, manufacturing or production, media, medical services, sales, and research and development.

The largest income group (12.36%) had a salary of \$100,000 to \$140,000, while a surprising 9.6% earned \$150,000 a year or more. The vast majority of those queried, 76.1%, use the *Post Internet Edition* as a primary source of information, while 70.89% also find advertising on the edition helpful. The subjects that interest them the most are current events, computers, Judaism, books, software, travel and leisure, health and fitness, entertainment, music, sports, and real estate.

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DELL WE'RE TALKING BUSINESS!

NEWS

in brief

IDF workers interrupt sanction

IDF workers are interrupting their sanctions until after the holidays, union head Yehoshua Maimon announced yesterday. The workers, who number approximately 10,000, began sanctions last week after the Treasury to grant them the 30 percent bonus that was granted to government workers.

Tim

Viagra has new competitor

Viagra has a new competitor – a tiny tablet introduced into a man's urethra with a disposable plastic inserter to counter impotence. But Muse, approved by the US Food and Drug Administration last year and due to go on the market here in a few weeks, will have a tough time against Pfizer's blue oral pill. It costs NIS 69.80 apiece compared to Viagra's NIS 48.50, and some men may be deterred by the more-invasive way it's used.

However, Muse, produced by Janssen-Cilag and imported here by its local branch, can be taken even by many heart patients who would be endangered by Viagra. Both Muse and Viagra require a doctor's prescription.

Judy Siegel

Police: Ladan's life in danger

The life of Avshalom Ladan, the Dolev resident suspected of shooting to death a Palestinian teenager and wounding another in Beitunya 10 days ago, is in danger, police told Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The Palestinian Authority has warned that locals want to take revenge on Ladan, police said in asking the court to extend his house arrest in a Jerusalem hotel.

Judge Uri Ben-Dor ordered police to show proof of specific warnings against the suspect before deciding today whether to release him.

Ladan claims his car was being stoned and he shot the youths in self-defense.

Amy Klein

Court upholds Bassiouny immunity

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Belly dancer Shulamit Shalom cannot sue Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny for NIS 1 million because he has diplomatic immunity, Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court ruled yesterday.

Judge Avraham Tal said he accepted Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's position that Bassiouny's diplomatic status is also relevant in a civil suit.

Shalom will appeal the decision, her lawyer said.

Shalom charged that she had been sexually assaulted by Bassiouny when she met him at the apartment of a mutual friend in Tel Aviv two years ago. She claims Bassiouny also promised her employment in return for sexual favors.

Shalom lodged a complaint with the police, causing diplomatic embarrassment with Cairo. But the

police did not find sufficient evidence to press criminal charges.

She then sued Bassiouny for ruining her reputation, saying that her career had been destroyed since the incident was publicized.

Her lawyer, Nitzana Darshan-Leimer, argued that Bassiouny no longer enjoys diplomatic status since he is socially and economically involved in Israel after such an extended term of office.

The Israel Women's Network called on Bassiouny to return to Cairo. "There are serious charges of assault and sexual harassment against Bassiouny on the part of the dancer, who also claims she was locked into her apartment," Network chairwoman Rivka Meller-Ushitsky said. "A situation has been created in which diplomatic immunity can shelter diplomats who physically and sexually attack women without them being brought to trial."

Har-Shefi sentenced to nine months

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Margalit Har-Shefi was sentenced to nine months in prison and 15 months' probation for failing to prevent a crime – the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin – by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

She had been convicted in June after acknowledging that Yigal Amir had boasted to her of his intentions to assassinate Rabin.

Har-Shefi's lawyer Sefi Elon said his client would appeal the sentence. He said Har-Shefi has consistently maintained that she had not taken Amir's statements seriously.

Charging the verdict was a "distortion of justice," Har-Shefi broke a three-month silence and read a statement she had prepared to the media in the courthouse corridor.

"Since the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin I chose to remain silent. There were those that interpreted my silence as being haughty and an unwillingness to take part in the mourning and more recently as being disrespectful to the court.

"I, a young woman, was suddenly plunged into a turmoil of publicity and a judicial onslaught. When opening a newspaper, I did not recognize the image being portrayed. They say I could have prevented the murder of the prime minister. I wish I could have. Who could have imagined that this terrible thing would happen." She said that if she had the slightest suspicion that Amir planned to actually do what he said, she would have reported it.

"I would have seen it as a moral and religious obligation to do so," she said.

Prosecutor Pinna Guy said she did not believe Har-Shefi is truly repentant. "At the trial, she was given the chance to declare her regret and chose to remain silent," she said.

Elon said his client will remain free on bail until a ruling on her appeal, which is due to be heard on October 27, the date Har-Shefi is to enter prison.

Elon charged that the law his



Margalit Har-Shefi speaks with her lawyer, Sefi Elon, in court yesterday.

(Dan Ostrovsky/Tel Aviv)

client had violated had been stricken from the US penal code. "It is a clause that belongs to a totalitarian state, not a democratic one," he said adding that one would expect such a ruling in Nazi Germany or Stalin's USSR.

In passing sentence, Judge Mira Lidsky said she had taken into account Har-Shefi's youth, but said she should have shown more responsibility and taken more vigorous action to prevent the crime.

Har-Shefi, she said, was an active member in a youth group with a clear political line. She was involved in the group's activities

and travelled to different communities to convince others of her beliefs and also took part in political debates. While Har-Shefi has the right to her own beliefs, she must abide by the law and act within that framework, she added.

"If someone is mature enough to lead a political movement, they must be full aware of the responsibility that comes with such a position," wrote Lidsky. She also chided Har-Shefi for her disrespectful behavior toward the court.

The verdict generated reactions from both the political Right and

Left, with some charging that the sentence was too light and others that it "was a travesty of justice."

Labor Party MKs reacted with satisfaction, saying it was fitting that she be jailed three years after the assassination. The verdict should serve as a warning to others with similar intentions, Dalia Itzik said.

Declaring the sentence as "too lenient," Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid claimed that a person who stole an apple in the market would be get a stiffer sentence.

The prosecution had asked the court for the maximum sentence

of two years, which Rabin's son Yuval said was not stiff enough.

But Rabin's daughter, Dalia Pelosoff, refrained from commenting on the length of the sentence. "The most important thing is that she was convicted," she said.

MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Mozeset) demanded that General Security Service agent Avishai Raviv, who worked with Amir, be brought to trial and added that he hoped Har-Shefi's appeal would be successful.

Batsheva Tsur contributed to this report.

Even scapegoats may be guilty

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Legal circles yesterday pointed to the problematics of sentencing a person under a law which makes it an offense not to report a planned crime, with Hebrew University law Prof. Eliav Shachetman overtly criticizing the verdict.

Judge Mira Lidsky, he said, was influenced by the public mood and did not have sufficient evidence to

prove that Har-Shefi was guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

"In criminal law, the state has to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that Har-Shefi in fact knew [about the plan to murder Yitzhak Rabin]," Shachetman said in an Israel Radio interview. "In my opinion, in the various sections of the ruling... the judge relies on Har-Shefi's remarks [such as those] after the trial and on her behavior. To my way of think-

ing, these do not prove anything."

He took the judge to task for her reasoning in the verdict. "For example, the fact [Har-Shefi] knew Yigal Amir carried a pistol: The judge asks why he carried a pistol and [concludes] it must be for the purpose of murder. This sounds very strange to me... Everyone knows there are a lot of people walking around with pistols..."

"In my opinion, there was public hysteria and people were looking for a scapegoat so that it would not seem that Yigal Amir was alone, but that he had accomplices. She was the scapegoat."

On the other hand, Prof. Ze'ev Segal of Tel Aviv University's law faculty defended the verdict, because of the gravity of the crime, but noted the complexity of the law itself in a democratic regime.

"Lidsky examined all the evidence and came to the conclusion that there was real knowledge [on the part of Har-Shefi] as is required by the... law," he said.

NRP: Raviv should be put on trial

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

The assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin could have been prevented not by Margalit Har-Shefi but by former General Security Service operative Avishai Raviv and he should be brought to trial, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom charged yesterday.

"The fact that the GSS, through its agent, heard from the murderer of his plan to attack the prime minister and did not prevent this terrible event makes Har-Shefi's punishment look ridiculous and out of all proportion," Yahalom said in an Israel Radio interview.

Until Raviv is brought to trial, instead of "a young woman acting out of innocence," Yahalom said, "a heavy stain will taint the Israeli system of justice."

MK Hanan Porat, Yahalom's colleague from the National Religious Party and chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, said that he would ask the High Court, with Likud MK Michael Eitan, to order Raviv be tried.

He criticized Judge Mira Lidsky for not realizing that "such a loaded issue should have been heard by a three-member panel."

The IDF takes an extremely severe view of any signs of ideological violence and the Education Corps is constantly on the lookout for such signs, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday in an interview with Channel 1. There was one instance of a soldier making "a remark" and the IDF clamped down on this immediately, Mordechai said.

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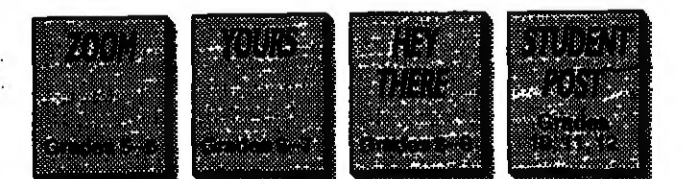
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Burg: Russian professionals being drawn here

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Businessmen and scientists from Russia's big cities, unlike previously, are now applying for information about possible immigration to Israel, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday.

"When you see the situation on the face of it, you get a very harsh impression," Burg, just back from a visit to Russia, said. "The restaurants are empty, and in many stores there isn't necessarily anything on the shelves. Every other person tells you they either lost their savings or haven't been paid for three months. You can see it everywhere."

While there has been "a large increase" in the number of people seeking information about Israel, "it's still very hard to tell" whether this will translate into a substantial increase in the number of immigrants, Burg said. "Under the best circumstances, the processing of immigrants takes three months, and that's not in an emergency situation. So we will only really know in January."

Burg noted that neither the

American nor the German consulates have registered an increase in the number of those inquiring about emigration.

Those seeking information about immigration to Israel include "many businessmen who lost their businesses and never sought us out before because they saw their future in Russia. They are very young, 20-30, and university students who don't even want to wait until they complete their studies."

Fear of antisemitism also is playing a role, Burg said. "The individuals I met with last week said that an economic crisis is always used by the antisemites. They said that they hadn't seen any actual translation of this into deeds, but they are very concerned. There is a lot of fear in the air."

Burg denied press reports that the recent assessments by agency officials are simply aimed at increasing its budget. "I'm not impressed by these reports, because I know about the increase in numbers we see in our offices. If they're dealing with 300 people instead of 50 people, I know there's an increase."



Saving the Jerusalem Forest

Environment Minister Rafael Eitan (right) tours the Jerusalem Forest yesterday. At the end of his tour, he said his ministry supports legislation that will protect the forest, which has shrunk from 4,000 dunams (1,000 acres) to 1,200 over the last several years, from various development schemes.

(Flash 90)

Family rep to review Tze'elim 2

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

State Comptroller Eliezer Goldberg has agreed to allow a senior reserve officer to look at the draft report of the Tze'elim 2 training mishap on behalf of the bereaved families.

But he said yesterday that the officer would be required to sign a document of confidentiality in which he undertakes not to reveal a word of the report to anyone, including the parents.

The decision was announced in a letter from Goldberg to attorney Eliad Shraga of the Movement for Quality Government, who had requested that the report be made available to the movement and the families.

"From the formal legalistic point of view," Goldberg explained, the families were not a party to the report. Only persons involved in the incident under investigation are allowed to see the draft report

so they can comment before the final report is drawn up. But, Goldberg added, he is taking the extraordinary step of allowing such an officer to comment on behalf of the families.

The families will be allowed to submit a list of names of officers whom they feel are suitable, and he and Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz will choose one of them, Goldberg said.

The officer will listen to the families' requests and accept any evidence or testimony they may wish to convey, examine any material that is in the comptroller's office, then comment on the draft.

In his letter, Goldberg also noted that the movement is not permitted to see the draft since it too is not a party to the mishap, despite its claims that it brought the issue to the attention of the public. The decision not to permit the movement to see the draft can be appealed to the courts, he added.

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WORLD

in brief

US attorney general faints in church

WASHINGTON (AP) - Attorney General Janet Reno was hospitalized in good condition after fainting yesterday during a church service. Reno, 60, was to remain overnight in the Georgetown Hospital's coronary unit for monitoring, said Paul Katz, spokesman for the Georgetown Medical Center.

"This is just a fainting spell. Her condition is good," Katz said. Reno was joking and in good spirits, he said.

He said a doctor was attending Reno when rescue workers arrived.

She was conscious and talking. Reno had a similar fainting spell while attending a conference in Mexico City in November 1997. Doctors attributed the fainting to exhaustion and dehydration.

US considered attacking China in 1964

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - The US considered a preemptive military strike against China in 1964 to stop it from becoming a nuclear power. The *Los Angeles Times* reported yesterday. It said top aides of president Lyndon Johnson "agonized" over the possibility, but after considerable debate decided the problem was not worth the risks inherent in a military attack.

China carried out its first nuclear test on October 16, 1964.

The newspaper said the options studied for U.S. military action included the use of nuclear weapons. US officials even sounded out the Soviet Union about collaborating to stop China from getting the bomb, but the Soviets were not interested, it added. The newspaper said details of "this remarkable hidden drama" were unveiled for the first time in a recently released collection of US government documents about U.S. policy toward China during the Johnson years.

NATO grabs Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - NATO-led forces in Bosnia yesterday detained a suspected Serb war criminal accused of committing atrocities against Muslims and Croats during ethnic cleansing of the northern town of Bosanski Samac in 1992.

Stevan Todorovic, 41, was accused "of willful killing and murder, willfully causing great suffering, cruel treatment, inhumane acts, inhumane treatment, rape, and torture," NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said in Brussels.

NATO's commander in Europe, US Army General Wesley Clark, said yesterday's SFOR action in an area named mainly by US troops showed that the military mission in Bosnia worked. "If SFOR meets people like this, it will take them into custody," SFOR spokeswoman Sheena Thomson said it been a "calm operation," adding that no one had been injured.

Iraq pins hopes on Annan to escape sanctions trap

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz meets UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday to try to prevent the latest standoff over arms inspections from tipping into crisis.

Aziz will ask Annan to spell out the details of a "comprehensive review" of Iraq's relations with the UN promised by the Security Council if Baghdad resumes full cooperation with the weapons inspectors.

Annan is likely to start by reminding Aziz that nothing can be done until Iraq rescinds its August 5 decision to suspend inspections by the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM).

"There will be very hot bargaining," said one diplomat in Baghdad. "There are crucial issues such as the timing and terms of reference of the review and who will conduct it."

Right now, Iraq faces the daunting prospect of indefinite sanctions after the Security Council decided

on September 9 to suspend its periodic reviews of the crippling embargo imposed after Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The people of Iraq will not let others turn it into a big camp of refugees fed from its own resources," Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Safat said in New York Saturday.

If the Annan-Aziz talks fail, the UN will have to decide what to do about Iraq's defiance, especially if it carries out a threat to end all cooperation with the inspectors, including closing arms monitoring stations.

On Thursday, the five permanent Security Council members said the comprehensive review could take place only after "the unconditional resumption of Iraqi cooperation" with the UNSCOM and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, in charge of eliminating Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

Georges heads for US Gulf coast

NEW ORLEANS (Reuters) - Rising winds and driving rains lashed the US Gulf coast yesterday as deadly Hurricane Georges moved closer to shore, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate the region.

The storm, with winds of up to 176 kph churned in the Gulf of Mexico just 152 km from the mouth of the Mississippi River in southeast Louisiana and 304 km southeast of New Orleans.

Although no serious injuries or deaths have been reported in the US, at least 298 people died as the hurricane rampaged through the Caribbean over the past week.

Georges was expected to make landfall later yesterday, the National Hurricane Center in

Miami said, but winds of up to 80 kph were already hitting coastal cities from Louisiana east to the Florida panhandle.

The center warned that up to 51 cm of rain are likely, along with a storm surge of 4.5 meters. The combination is expected to bring heavy flooding along the coast.

Hundreds of thousands of people evacuated the area Saturday, officials said.

A hurricane warning was in effect from Morgan City, Louisiana, to Panama City, Florida. In Port Sulphur, Louisiana, near where the storm was expected to make landfall, the sheriff's deputy said: "I hope everybody who needed to get out is gone. It's blowing really hard but no rain yet. I wish

we were gone too."

Georges swept through the Florida Keys Friday after taking island after island in the Caribbean where about 300 people died in the storm. It was loping along at about 16 kph as it moved northwest through the Gulf Sunday.

The weather was still calm in New Orleans yesterday morning, but the city was ready for what the National Weather Service

described as "a major threat to life and property." The normally lively French Quarter was all but abandoned and many of its stores and restaurants were boarded up. New Orleans officials called for a voluntary evacuation by residents living inside hurricane protection levees and a mandatory evacuation by

those living outside the defensive embankments.

Coast Guard spokesman India Roderick said: "We're pretty much out of here with our emergency response capability; so I hope nobody gets in trouble until the storm passes. Rescue helicopter and boats have been moved completely out of the New Orleans area and most of our personnel have been evacuated too."

City crews sandbagged bridges and streets and they closed floodgates in levees that surround the low-lying city.

New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial warned city residents that Georges would strike a hard blow. "This is nothing to play with. It's a powerful force of nature," he told

reporters. Morial said he would likely order a mandatory curfew later in the day to make sure people stayed inside.

The New Orleans airport was down well ahead of the storm's arrival.

In neighboring Mississippi officials sent tourists scurrying away from the state's beaches and casino boats, which began shutting down late last week in preparation for Georges.

Georges was one of four hurricanes plying the Atlantic basin yesterday in a rare meteorological event not seen since the last century. The others, Ivan, Jeanne, and Karl, were all spinning harmlessly in the ocean, posing no threat to the US mainland.



Babi Yar memorial

Joseph Torchinsky, 80, remembers the killing of his mother and sister by the Nazis at Babi Yar in 1941, at a memorial ceremony there yesterday. Hundreds gathered at the Kiev ravine to mark the 57th anniversary of the slaughter of some 150,000 Jews. (AP)

Clinton discusses funds for Jones deal

News agencies

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton has consulted with his former chief fund-raiser about the money necessary to resolve the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit against him, *The Washington Post* reported yesterday.

Quoting sources close to the White House, the newspaper said Terence McAuliffe, a lawyer and business executive who headed finances for Clinton's 1996 reelection campaign, assured the president he could raise the funds.

McAuliffe also told Clinton he would not let him leave office bankrupt from the various legal issues that have dogged him throughout his tenure, the *Post* reported.

Clinton's lawyers are in talks

with Jones about a financial settlement to end the legal battle that unearthed the Monica Lewinsky scandal, which now threatens his presidency, sources close to the discussions said Thursday.

"There are settlement negotiations ongoing and there have been for a while," said one source familiar with the talks.

Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, claimed in her sexual harassment lawsuit against Clinton that the then-governor of Arkansas exposed himself to her in a Little Rock hotel room in 1991 and asked her for oral sex.

The case was thrown out by federal Judge Susan Webber Wright in April, but Jones vowed to appeal the case, with her lawyers citing Clinton's admission of an affair with Lewinsky as evidence that he perjured himself in the Jones case

deposition.

One source familiar with the Clinton strategy said the president's legal team was seeking to avoid getting ensnared in another legal battle at a time when the president is facing possible impeachment proceedings in Congress for allegedly trying to cover up his affair with Lewinsky.

The two sides had come close in the past to settling the case, with Jones's demand for an apology proving a hurdle to a final deal. Jones rejected a proposed \$700,000 settlement from Clinton a year ago, because it did not include an admission and apology from the president.

Lawyers reportedly are haggling over how much Clinton should pay following Jones's decision to drop her request for an apology. The *Post* said attorneys for Jones have

asked for \$1 million, while Clinton's lawyers have offered \$500,000.

Despite that gap, the *Post* said yesterday both camps were confident a deal could be reached and that a settlement could come as early as today.

Without help from McAuliffe or other wealthy benefactors, Clinton would be hard-pressed to come up with enough money to reach an accord with Jones, the newspaper said.

The Jones lawsuit, along with the Whitewater and Lewinsky investigations, have resulted in more than \$8 million in legal fees for the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

McAuliffe this year helped set up a new legal defense fund for the Clintons, which has raised \$2.2 million in its first six months.

Iran FM: Rushdie death sentence irrevocable

TEHERAN (Reuters) - The death edict against Salman Rushdie cannot be revoked and the British author's "insulting remarks" will increase the hatred of Muslims toward him, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The statement was made by Mahmoud Mohammadi, who is tipped to be Iran's new ambassador to Britain following their agreement to upgrade diplomatic relations as part of a deal in which the Iranian government distanced itself from a 1989 *fatwa* or religious decree against Rushdie for blasphemy against Islam in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

Kayhan, an influential hard-line daily, called on the government to carry out the *fatwa* and kill Rushdie. "The government and statesmen of the Islamic Republic of Iran... have the duty to prepare the grounds and implement the edict, and it is evident that it should not and cannot give the least guarantee on preventing the execution of this edict," it said in an editorial.

Teheran radio quoted the Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the promotion of relations between Iran and Britain could be analyzed in the framework of world developments and the international community's new understanding of realities in Iran.

"At the same time, the irrevocability of the late imam's edict is a fact," the radio quoted Mohammadi as saying.

He said it was surprising that while Britain's Foreign Secretary Robin Cook explicitly announced Thursday that the British government and the European Union did not support insults against religious sanctities, Rushdie continued his "insulting remarks."

The commentary did not specify which remarks Mohammadi was referring to.

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The Zen of Zorro

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

The sword-fighting is impressive in its improbable, gymnastic way, but when push comes to shove (or lunge comes to parry), all the best moments in *The Mask of Zorro* emerge from the stillness and the molten calm that Anthony Hopkins brings to his part. In this energetic swashbuckler, a deliberate throwback to old-style Hollywood spectacle, the actor plays the notorious outlaw —

THE MASK OF ZORRO

Directed by Martin Campbell. Screenplay by John Eskow, Ted Elliot and Terry Rossio. Hebrew title: *Hamesha shel Zorro*. 125 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested. With Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Stuart Wilson and Matt Letscher

a sort of messianic acrobat or Superman with a social conscience — 20 years down the road. After his beloved wife is murdered and his infant daughter kidnapped by the evil governor of California, Don Rafael Montero (Stuart Wilson), Don Diego de la Vega is sent to prison where he stays, forgotten and alone, for two long decades. There he has had ample time to cultivate a long-matured beard and serious though expertly repressed desire for vengeance. After he manages to spring himself from jail, he meets up with a scruffy clown of a horse thief named Alejandro (Antonio Banderas), whose brother was recently killed by one of



Elena (Catherine Zeta-Jones), a helpless ingenue and a sword-fighting chichita, is attracted to the slapsticky Zorro (Antonio Banderas).

Montero's men, and who also yearns to get even.

As he counsels his new friend to keep his cool and prepare himself before he attacks, de la Vega also makes a conscious decision to bequeath to the younger man the role of Zorro. He himself is too old to carry out the masked man's mission, but he'll teach Alejandro what he needs to know to become the hero, and put him through an intensive crash course in athletics, politics, manners and, the most illusive quality of all, character and the mass of hard-to-learn traits that it entails: restraint, understanding, generosity, compassion, modesty.

There are shades of Yoda here and even *The Karate Kid*, but the dark, flashing power of Hopkins's poise in these scenes appears to come from a deeper and more pri-

mate store of knowledge. It takes a few minutes for the particulars of what is going on to register in their entirety but then it dawns on us: Anthony Hopkins is offering Antonio Banderas acting lessons! When de la Vega scolds the younger man for playing the buffoon, for carrying himself too clumsily, without dignity, Hopkins speaks from a place of total, personal authority. His own performance is at once so fierce and muted — every word and gesture a perfectly aimed emotional implosion — he hardly needs the words of the (mediocre) script to help him explain what he means. He just shows it off by standing and putting out a series of candles, one by one, with the flick of his whip. But *The Mask of Zorro* is not the heavy intellectual exercise this description may suggest. And

Banderas's slapsticky presence is, after its own playful fashion, also integral to the weave of the film. Most of the time, Hopkins's steady, silent work takes a back seat to the swirl of fast-paced derring-do that is the movie's real concern.

Director Martin (GoldenEye) Campbell works in clean, broad strokes, with constant motion and the display of vivid color his main concern. And while he and the scriptwriters make a few unfortunate concessions to the action-movie conditioning of contemporary audiences (with Bruce Willis-styled quips muttered a split second before each showdown, several major explosions, and the final, climactic scene edited too frenetically, with no shot lasting more than a few seconds and two simultaneous sword fights taking place where one would

probably do), the movie does achieve a kind of cheer and earnest excitement that indeed recall mad-dance films of an earlier era.

The filmmakers are wise to aim for the big-hearted, breathless effect of, say, the 1940 Tyrone Powell *Mark of Zorro* rather than attempting a more literal replica.

The picture also marks an impressive first starring turn for the young Welsh actress Catherine Zeta-Jones in the role of de la Vega's long lost daughter, Elena. At first, Zeta-Jones seems almost too pretty to be effective — her complexion is so peachy, her eyes so bright, she looks air brushed. But to her credit, she manages to animate the part with gusto, navigating easily the slippery space between acting a fetching, helpless ingenue and a hot-blooded, sword-fighting chichita.

A musical pilgrimage

By MICHAEL AJENSTADT

Centuries ago, Jews made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem three times a year, to feast and bring sacrifices to God at the Temple.

The Temple is no longer with us, yet we continue to feast during the three regimim (pilgrimage festivals) — Succot, Pessah and Shavuot, and to travel around the country. And though we can no longer bask in the Temple music performed by the Levites, at least we can enjoy the holiday music festivals.

For music lovers wishing to combine music with nature, Succot has its share of festivals far from the big cities. But for those who want to hear great music and also visit Jerusalem, two of the most exciting events are to be in the capital and its environs.

The Abu Ghosh Choral Music Festival is a festival in the true sense of the word. This musical celebration takes place in a picturesque Arab village on the out-

skirts of Jerusalem, and presents a varied program not usually performed during the regular season.

Twice a year (Succot and Shavuot) choral and vocal music lovers gather in Abu Ghosh for humorous with Bach and other delectable choral delights.

This year's Succot program (October 9-12) is one of the best Abu Ghosh has featured in a long time. The 17 concerts feature staples of the repertoire, like the Mozart Requiem or Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, side by side with choral music by Villa Lobos, the Haydn *Stabat Mater* and the Cimarosa Requiem.

There is no point in recommending one particular concert, as each has its very special charm.

The newest addition to the classical music festivals is the Pearls of Chamber Music international festival, which takes place twice a year, on Pessah and Succot, at the International Church at 55 Rehov Hanevi'im in Jerusalem.

In this relatively small setting

some of the finest local musicians gather for evenings of refined chamber music making.

The upcoming festival (October 5-10) features two programs that would have been ideal for Abu Ghosh as well: the Rachmaninoff *Vespers*, performed by the Musica Eterna vocal ensemble, and Shostakovich's *From Jewish Folk Poetry* with Larisa Tenev, Susanna Poretsky and Yevgeni Shapovalov.

Also on the festival program are concerts with violinist David Bartov and violist Michael Kugel.

The very professional Jerusalem Festival Orchestra, under Vladimir Barshevitz, is the festival's orchestra in residence and all programs are hosted in both Hebrew and Russian by the very informative and always entertaining Yossi Tavor from the Voice of Israel.

Last year's concerts at this festival sold out in advance, so music lovers are encouraged to order their tickets for the six concerts in a musical event sure to be a pure delight.

Donny and Marie are back

By SUSAN KING

They may be a little too long in the tooth to sing "Puppy Love" and "Paper Roses," but Donny and Marie Osmond don't seem much different from their days as the clean-cut teenage siblings on the '70s ABC musical-variety series *Donny and Marie*.

Now, 19 years after the series' demise, the pair are throwing their hats and well-known smiles into the talk-show ring with a new weekday e-tv, *Donny & Marie*, which is being syndicated around the US.

Both Donny and Marie, who still love to tease each other, have had enduring single careers.

Performing since he was three with the Osmond Brothers, Donny later had great success on the legit stage, touring for several years in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This summer he was the singing voice of Shang in *Mulan*. Donny, 40, is the father of five sons.

Marie, 38, and the mother of six, also has branched out into the world of musical comedy, touring in *The Sound of Music* and starring on Broadway in *The King and I*. She also appeared in the ABC sitcom *Maybe This Time*. She also is co-founder of the Children's Miracle Network, which has raised \$1.4 billion since 1983 for medical treatment, research and assistance for children's hospitals.

Brother and sister talked on the phone from Philadelphia, just one of their stops in a nationwide promotion tour.

Have you both worked together a lot since Donny and Marie went off the air?

Marie: It will be about 20 years since we worked together.

So what's it like reuniting after two decades?

Donny: It was actually quite interesting that everything just kind of came back together. The chemistry we had back in the '70s just immediately popped back into place.

Marie: It's a very unique relationship when you have a sibling relationship because you can go places with your brother or sister that you never could with a co-host or a host, even if you are married [to the host].

The original *Donny and Marie* show came about because we had recorded an album together. *Leaving It All Up to You*. This is many years ago. We were promoting that album and co-hosting *The Mike Douglas Show*. That was where the chemistry was first seen — just us co-hosting and teasing each other. Fred Silverman, who used to be head of ABC television, saw us and said that [relationship] would be a great show.

How did the talk show happen?

Donny: This whole concept isn't new to us. We've been approached ever since we ended the *Donny and Marie* show to do something, whether it be another series or specials. The timing just didn't feel right. Marie and I wanted to pursue our own thing. Now that we have done that, the timing just feels really good. Columbia TriStar — their

support of the show — and particularly with Dick Clark as our executive producer, it just felt right.

Can you talk about the format of the show?

Donny: It's an entertainment-slash-talk show. But I think the main thing, without trying to overstate it, is the relationship that Marie and I have. What we want to bring is a little bit of a different twist to [the format] with our personality.

Marie: We want the wonderful celebrities. We want to have people who aren't necessarily celebrities but are very interesting.

Marie, is it true that your husband and six children have moved out to Los Angeles from Utah to be with you?

Donny: With having that many children, for me to commute is really difficult. I need to see my kids every night. But Donny has a very difficult situation.

Donny: I had to keep my family in Utah because my second son just started his senior year [in high school]. My oldest son is in college.

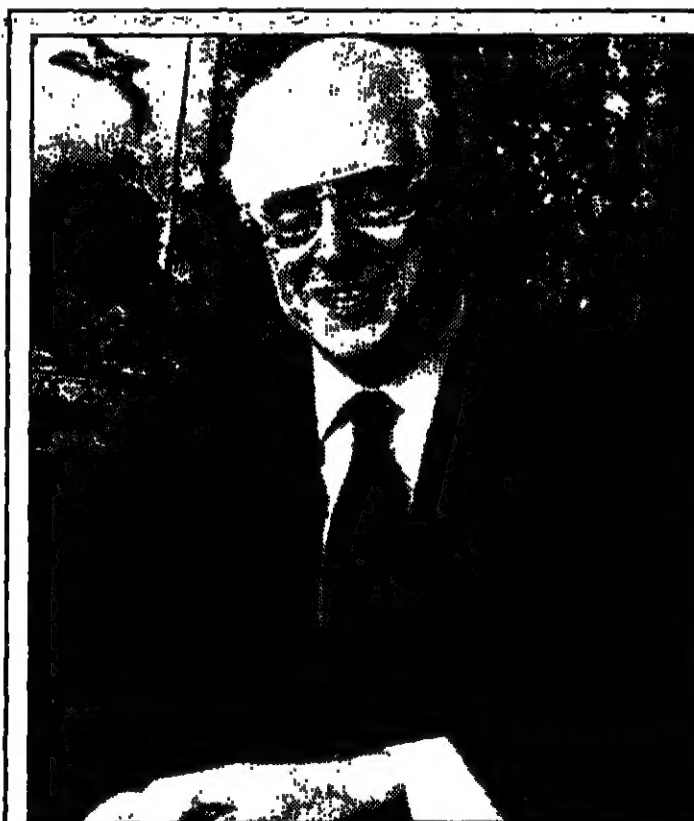
It's so hard to believe you have a son that old. I remember when you and your brothers were on *The Andy Williams Show*.

Donny: You're showing your age there, Susan. I still feel like I'm in my 20s, and I act like I'm in my teens.

Marie: He acts like he's 12.

Donny: Having children spanning from six months to 19 keeps me young.

Marie: He figures he'll grow up with them. (Los Angeles Times)



Rostropovich to open Philharmonic season

Renowned Russian-born cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington for over two decades, will make a one-time-only appearance in Israel at a special gala concert to open the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's season. On Saturday, October 3 at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Rostropovich will play the Dvorak and the Saint-Saens cello concerti with the IPO under the baton of music director Zubin Mehta. Rostropovich, an outspoken defendant of human rights, was born in 1927 to a distinguished musical family in Baku. He left his homeland in 1974 in protest at the Soviet regime and the home imprisonment of his friend, novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

He was awarded the 1974 Annual Award of the International League of Human Rights and has over 40 honorary degrees from more than 30 countries. He has also won numerous prizes for his work as cellist, conductor and pianist.

Tickets for this special gala concert are far from cheap: NIS 160 to NIS 600 for the general public and NIS 128 to NIS 480 for IPO subscribers.

— Michael Ajenstadt

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NEWS

of the muse

Yiddish in Italy

Parma, Italy, is famous for its violets and its theme festivals. This year the Parma Festival from October 3 to 8 celebrates Israel's jubilee and opens with excerpts from YiddishShpiel's best productions such as *Goldfaden's Dream*, *The Witch*, and *The Travels of Benjamin III*. Other Israeli performers include the Cameri Theater with Hanoch Levin's award winning *Murder*, the Inbal Dance Theater and singer Zehava Ben. Helen Kaye

Shakespeare in Jerusalem

Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* directed by the intense and imaginative Gadli Roll opens the Jerusalem Khan Theater season.

The play, designed by Roni Toren, involves the entire company, as well as five extras, in accordance with artistic director Ofira Henig's vision for the development of what is fast becoming the best repertory theater in the country. *Measure for Measure*, which was performed for James I in 1604, is the last of Shakespeare's comedies, but it has an uncomedian theme. It is about abuse on many different levels — the abuse of power, of trust and of faith. It is also about the redemptive power of mercy, and the play pits the one against the other. Yoram Hattab, who has just joined the company, plays the wise Duke who pretends to leave his kingdom so he can watch his deputies govern unobserved. Yigal Sade is the corrupt Angelo and Tamara Dayan the steadfast Isabella, object of Angelo's virtuous lust. It opens October 3. Helen Kaye

Russian in Beersheba

Beersheba Theater general manager Razi Amitai believes that theater needs to be responsive to its public, in his case the flood of immigrants from the USSR that today comprises 35% of the city's population. As a result, Yosef Bar-Yosef's *The Orange Grove*, directed by Yelena Kreindlin, will be presented in Russian. The orange grove is the background for a doomed love between the grove's widowed owner (Pavel Tzitranel) and an immigrant dancer (Masha Belkin). It opens on Thursday. Helen Kaye

And Hebrew in Kiev

The Haifa Theater is taking its production of *Telbele and Her Demon* — a tale by Isaac Bashevis Singer of lust, hungers and simulated possession — to Kiev, the home of director Mikhail Reznikovitch, who also directed the play for the Ukrainian National Theater. The play stars Moshe Beker as Elhanan and Maya Maoz in the title role. They'll perform in Hebrew with simultaneous translation into Russian. Helen Kaye

Overdue recognition

Berta Yampolsky, choreographer and the founding artistic director of the Israel Ballet, has been awarded the Education Minister's Dance Life Achievement Prize. A dance addict practically from birth, Yampolsky studied at the Royal Ballet School in London and danced in Europe with her husband Hillel Markman for a few years, but her heart was always here. In 1967 she founded the Israel Ballet on a wing and a prayer, and no funds. To this day the ballet gets less than the established modern dance companies, but it has managed to rack up a solid record of achievement, both here and abroad. Yampolsky's ballets are clear, unpretentious and accessible. Her most notable successes include *Cinderella*, *Romeo and Juliet*, the exquisite *Harmonium*, the cheeky *Encore* and the wonderfully moody *Dancing to Songs*. The awards ceremony is November 11 at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv. Helen Kaye

Succot Hit Festival on its Way

The international festival Pearls of Chamber Music returns to the International Church (55 Hanevi'im St., Jerusalem) during Succot (October 5-10) with an exciting program of six concerts featuring music by Bach, Saint-Saens, Bartok, Mozart, Telemann, Paganini, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich and other composers. The Jerusalem Festival Orchestra performs with soloist violinist David Bartov, violist Michael Kugel and singers Larisa Tenev, Susanna Poretsky and Yevgeni Shapovalov, the Musica Eterna choral ensemble and a special concert of alternative music presented by Slava Ganelin and Micha Markovich. Michael Ajenstadt

New Nova Series

Music Nova, Israel's leading ensemble for contemporary music opens its 13th season on December 12 with a program of new Israeli music. The five-concert Nova subscription series enables local music lovers to encounter some of the newest developments in contemporary music. Other concerts present a 100th birthday tribute to Poulenc and several world premieres commissioned by the ensemble. Two special additional concerts featuring young Israeli composers are also planned for the Nova season. For subscriptions and details call Musica Nova at (03) 573-2622. Michael Ajenstadt

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The crime of silence

We expect of judges something almost super-human: that they block out the pressures surrounding a high-profile case, and mete out justice without regard to what is "expected" by the public. On the other hand, the judge must also be aware that each case is a link in the chain of precedence, and therefore can affect countless other cases, to say nothing of the public debate outside the courtroom.

The ruling of Judge Mira Lidsky in the trial of Margalit Har-Shefi, therefore, can be judged on all three fronts: whether justice was served for the individual, the nature of the legal precedent that may have been set, and the contribution of this trial to heal the still-open wound from the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

Yesterday the court sentenced Har-Shefi to nine months in prison and 15 months' probation for the crime of failing to prevent a crime. According to Har-Shefi's lawyer, few nations have laws against the prevention of crimes, which unlike other laws, do not prohibit an action but require one. In Israel, convictions for this crime are rare, carry a maximum sentence of two years in prison, and only have occurred when the accused have had direct, immediate, and specific knowledge of a crime about to be committed.

In the Har-Shefi case, the judge decided to convict based on what she admitted was a broad definition of "knowledge" of a potential crime, since Har-Shefi was found not to have known of, or had any specific connection with, the terrible murder that Yigal Amir committed on November 4, 1995.

Judge Lidsky wrote, "[Har-Shefi] did not have a hand in the murder, in its planning, in carrying out any assistance, and did not have any knowledge of the time of its implementation. But, in her failure," the judge continued, "I see a contribution to what happened. It could be that if she had taken... reasonable actions to prevent a crime, that this abominable murder might have been prevented."

It is, of course, for a higher court to decide what level of knowledge or suspicions should be required to convict a citizen for not reporting to the police, or taking other actions to prevent a crime from being committed. In doing so, it would seem fair to take into account not just the level of knowledge, but the immensity of the crime that might have been prevented. The Rabin assassination was not "just" a murder, already the most serious crime that can be committed - it was a murder that deprived a democracy of its elected leader and tore wide open the already-frayed social fabric of a nation in a way that may never be fully repaired.

It is questionable, however, whether the court should have attempted to repair that fabric through

the punishment of Har-Shefi, and if so whether the court has succeeded. Though the Left and Right disagree over whether Har-Shefi was adequately or excessively punished, both sides are concerned that she has been singled out. The Left wonders why only Har-Shefi was caught in the net of justice, when others had heard Amir's threats, and many more participated in the extremist fringe which came to see Rabin's death as a virtue. The Right, including Minister Shaul Yahalom, cannot understand why Har-Shefi should be imprisoned while alleged GSS-backed provocateur Avishai Rabin is not even charged with a crime.

In truth, the conviction of Har-Shefi does make the hiding of Rabin's role behind a cloak of official secrecy all the more problematic. It is time that the Shamgar Commission's findings regarding Rabin be made public, both in the case of justice and to dispel whatever conspiracy theories flourish in the darkness. Until this information is released, the suspicion that official secrecy is hiding the failures of individuals rather than protecting the nation's security will remain strong, and that perception is in itself unhealthy.

Regarding the continued existence of the extremist fringe that ideologically nourished Amir and still does not regret his act, Har-Shefi's own post-trial statement might do more good than the trial itself. Har-Shefi, whom the judge found to be insolent and unrepentant, said yesterday in her first public statement since being charged, "I wish I could have prevented [Rabin's murder]. ... If I had even the slightest suspicion that that man [Amir] intended to do what he said, I would not only have reported him, but done so as a moral and religious duty of the highest order." Even Yuval Rabin, who thought Har-Shefi's sentence was too lenient, expressed satisfaction with this expression of regret, and recognized its importance as a rejection from within of the mindset that justified his father's murder.

Last week, on the unfortunately obscure Fast of Gedalia, Yuval Rabin joined a small group that gathered to say morning prayers at the spot of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. The Fast of Gedalia was instituted to mourn the assassination some 2,500 years ago of Gedalia Ben-Ahikam, a Jewish leader murdered by Jews because he was considered a puppet of Babylon. The service in Kikar Rabin was attended not only by the groups on the religious and secular left, but also by Bnei Akiva youth, of the national-religious camp. The nation will be healed when it does not require the prospect of a jail sentence to elicit a statement like Har-Shefi's from the extreme right-wing, and when Yitzhak Rabin is mourned as unconditionally as Gedalia Ben-Ahikam.

Wanted: A foreign minister

YOSEF GOELL

On the eve of Yasser Arafat's scheduled address to the UN General Assembly, it is not yet clear whether or not he will announce his intention of unilaterally declaring an independent Palestinian state next May 4.

What is more, it is as yet far from clear whether such an Arafat tactic would be good or bad for Israel in the long run, or even good or bad for the prospects of avoiding future hostilities in our region.

What is already clear, however, is that in the short term, Arafat will seek to dangle us on his "will he or won't he?" string; and that Israel must prepare to face much harder times in its international relations during the next seven months and, most likely, for at least an additional year or more.

It is exactly at such a time that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided Israel can keep moving along without a full-time foreign minister. Netanyahu himself has officially taken over the ministry for the better part of the past year, ever since David Levy resigned in a huff over differences on domestic issues and over the perennial problems of real or imagined insults to his vanity.

There are some cynics who claim that in the modern world of "imperial" prime ministers and instant communications, no state really needs a foreign ministry or a foreign minister any more.

It is interesting to note in this regard that none of the states supposedly more sophisticated than Israel in their cynicism quotient have seen fit to dispense with their foreign ministry or minister, or even with ambassadors.

Israel, a state more dependent than most others on developing and maintaining as much international support and understanding for its legitimate interests as possible, is clearly in need of a full-time foreign minister who would effectively head a min-

istry whose purpose is exactly that. Part of the problem is that Netanyahu obviously has become enamored of the job and its ego-stroking perks, such as addressing the world at the annual get-together of foreign ministers at the UN.

In an illuminating *Ha'aretz* interview recently, Netanyahu's father, Professor Ben-Zion Netanyahu, opined that his son would have made a much better foreign minister than premier. Like a loyal father, he hastened to add, of course, that for all of Netanyahu junior's shortcomings as prime minister, there was no one else around who could do it better. But he seemed to be reflecting his son's great pleasure in being acting foreign minister.

Prof. Netanyahu is wrong in his assessment. His son is an expert in short-term, playing-it-by-ear, shooting-from-the-hip, public relations. Even if this expertise proves crucial in winning close elections, it does not work in diplomacy, where personal chemistry, consistency and perseverance, and a deep knowledge of the world and the personalities who run it are what are needed. On all these, Netanyahu gets low marks.

Besides which, he is treating the Foreign Ministry portfolio as a *halutz*, (a side job), which has left the Foreign Ministry and all its accumulated expertise in a shambles.

When he was secretary of state, Henry Kissinger used to complain that Israel has no foreign policy, only domestic politics. That was a typical piece of Kissingerian nastiness, for his complaint is true of many countries, not least his own.

What is really problematic in recent years is that the conduct of Israel's foreign affairs is being held ransom, not so much to domestic political considerations, but to ones of personal ego.

The decision to appoint David Levy as foreign minister was a pre-

Dry Bones



dictable catastrophe. The decision to leave the conduct of foreign affairs to the whims of the prime minister has been equally irresponsible. Even toying with the idea of naming Ariel Sharon to that position would be compounding the crime.

The first step that should be taken in preparing for the already visible hard times ahead is the appointment of a foreign minister whose main qualification should be the ability to get foreign leaders to listen to Israel's case.

There may be no suitable candidates in the immediate vicinity of our present cabinet and Likud Knesset faction. That is apparently one of the prices of the debasing of party politics and the abominable level of the politics whom the major parties

have been sending to the Knesset and the government over recent years.

But there are many qualified people for the post outside of the present inner circles, from among whom an effective foreign minister could be found.

No foreign policy based on the messianic world view of the religious settlers stands a chance of being explained to the outside world. But a pragmatic, right-wing foreign policy, based on an emphasis on the security perils entailed in a sincere search for peace with the Palestinians, can be explained.

And before finding a suitable candidate for foreign minister, Netanyahu would have to make clear, at least to him, which of these policies the government is pursuing.

Judging others

BERNARD WASSERSTEIN

controlled firms, such as the important Hankow Light and Power Company, continued to operate in spite of the restrictions of the Trading with the Enemy Act.

THE British were not alone. Citizens of almost every Allied nation also collaborated: American journalists, pro-Vichy French, Australians who formed an

ed for a time as the paper's editor.

Other Jews served in the Municipal Police. A German Jew, C. Braun, a businessman engaged in import-export of chemicals and medicine, betrayed fellow Jews to the Japanese Gendarmes: one of those arrested as a result, a British national named Topaz, later died after being tortured.

Perhaps the single most important

How should we view the actions of collaborators under occupation?

"Independent Australia League."

The 20,000-strong Jewish community of Shanghai and the smaller Jewish communities of Harbin and Tientsin similarly produced their quota of volunteer workers for the Nipponese Empire. Some, particularly among followers of the Far Eastern branches of the Revisionist Zionist movement, felt a certain ideological kinship with Japanese militarism. Others had more opportunistic motives. Many, of course, were stateless-refugees and so were not liable for post-war prosecution; yet by their actions they gave direct help to Adolf Hitler's ally.

Abe Ladar, a supporter of the Palestinian-Jewish terrorist organization Lehi, worked for the English-language *Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury*, which continued to appear under Japanese control during the occupation. David Zentner, a Polish Jew, operat-

ed for a time as the paper's editor. Other Jews served in the Municipal Police. A German Jew, C. Braun, a businessman engaged in import-export of chemicals and medicine, betrayed fellow Jews to the Japanese Gendarmes: one of those arrested as a result, a British national named Topaz, later died after being tortured.

Under the occupation, he as well as nearly all the 71 senior British staff of the mines remained at their posts, training Japanese managers and helping to produce vitally needed coking coal for the Japanese war effort. The British Foreign Office declared that such conduct was "unpatriotic and reprehensible" - but the company insisted that Nathan had simply been protecting the interests of its shareholders.

Most of these collaborators did not think of themselves as traitors. Many seem to have been decent

people at the personal level. Nathan's private papers include a letter from Heinz David, of the German-Jewish refugee community in Tientsin, expressing appreciation for assistance given to the exiles. Neither Nathan, nor most of the other collaborators were tried after the war. Nathan, indeed, was promoted to chairmanship of the British parent company.

Yet their wartime actions merit analysis and reflection. Unlike the members of the "Jewish Councils" in occupied Europe, they did not, in the main, collaborate under imminent physical threat (though, ironically, some of them were later arrested and tortured by those they had earlier assisted). Nor, in general, could the Far Eastern collaborators defend their actions on the ground that they were seeking, however misguidedly, to protect the interests of their community as a whole.

The collaborators, it should be stressed, were a minority among the foreigners in Shanghai. Some engaged in resistance activity - almost invariably ineffective. Most Allied nationals and stateless Jews were eventually deposited in internment camps where they could neither resist nor collaborate.

The questions remain: how could so many engage actively in the Axis cause?

How might we have acted? And how should we view the actions of collaborators under occupation in other times and other places?

The writer is the author of *Secret War in Shanghai* (Profile Books, London, 1998).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HABAD IN RA'ANANA

Sir, - As mayor of Ra'anana, I have decided to respond to the letter written by Judy Lev "True leader," (September 13), a resident of our city, in which she describes her pain at the involvement of a local public figure in a demonstration which took place objection to the establishment of a new Habad center in Ra'anana.

I totally identify with Mrs. Lev's sentiments. Ra'anana has gained a reputation as a city in which all segments of society live together in cooperation and mutual respect. We continuously strive to maintain a bridge, based on tolerance and understanding between religious and secular residents.

I am truly sorry that political elements are trying to exploit this subject, but this is probably due to the upcoming municipal elections. As to the matter itself, it is important to emphasize that the objection of the residents to the

establishment of the Habad center stemmed mainly from their concern that the center's activities would disturb the peace of the surrounding neighborhood and were not related to the religious-secular relations in Ra'anana.

In response to requests by the neighbors, I decided to turn to the Habad movement, where I found understanding and goodwill to stop the procedures for establishing the center in the neighborhood, while the municipality committed itself to a satisfactory alternative location for the establishment of the Habad center.

This understanding exemplifies the good spirit that exists in Ra'anana and shows the readiness for cooperation among the segments of our population, for which I am very proud.

ZEEV BIELSKI,
Mayor of Ra'anana.

REPORTING, NOT PAYING

Sir, - I read with fascination and amazement Philip Stein's article "An immigrant's nightmare" (September 18) about the changes to come in tax reform and how it will affect new and veteran immigrants.

Stein made a mistake when stating that anyone from the US with investments there would pay heavy taxes here.

America and Israel have a tax treaty that disallows double taxation. Americans pay taxes to the American government on monies invested in the US. Therefore they would not be obliged to pay taxes on investments in the US to Israeli tax

authorities.

So, Stein's example of a \$15,000 dollar investment taxed here at 35% is a poor example since it's not quite correct.

The couple in question, would pay US taxes on that money, not Israeli taxes. They may have to report that investment, but because of the tax treaty will not be taxed here for them.

The fear here is in having to personally report worldwide income as Americans do to the IRS in the United States. Reporting doesn't necessarily imply paying.

ALIZA WEINBERG
Rehovot.

SELF-DECEPTION

Sir, - I certainly agree with Dr. Yossi Beilin, who concludes in "The year that was" (September 20), that the year just ended has not been a good one for Israel's position in the world. I might dispute how it got that way.

Whereas before Oslo five years ago there was an irredentist movement, the power center of which was in Tunis and elsewhere remote from our population centers, now we have one within walking distance of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Whereas five years ago the IDF had access to places in the territories in which nests of murderers fester, now those places have their own army (only the most glib of groupies would call it "a strong police force") that fires upon Israelis when an existing tunnel is refurbished, and stocks its motor pool with vehicles stolen from "occupied Palestine."

Whereas the popular leader of this movement was then persona-non-grata, even in Arab capitals, now he is lionized in all capitals of the world. Any hope there might have been for a rational peace has been eradicated by these changes, for Palestinian irredentism has been shown to be a viable and successful policy. And this has happened because Dr. Beilin confuses self-deception with "taking chances for peace."

STAN GOODMAN

Kiryat Tivon.

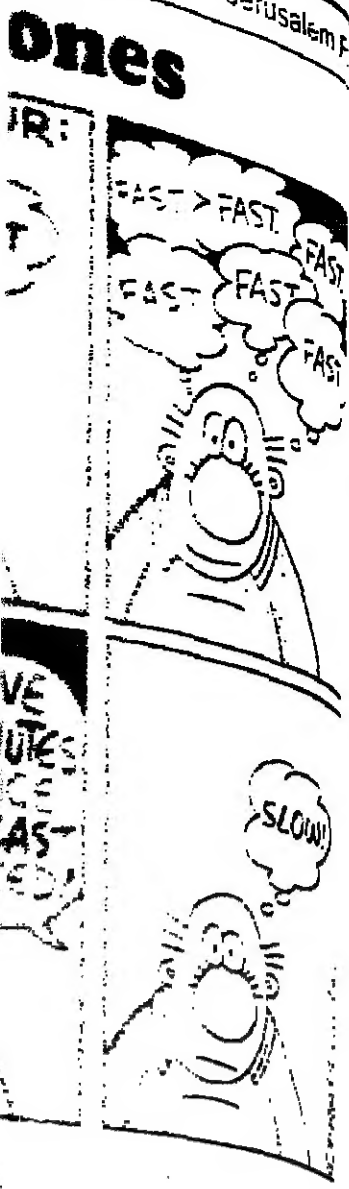
FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On September 28, 1933, *The Palestine Post* described in glowing details the activities of the Girls' Agricultural Training School in the Talpott suburb of Jerusalem where under the watchful eye of the horticulturist Rachel Yanait Ben-Zvi, thousands of trees were being grown for afforestation.

50 years ago: On September 28, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that for the first time since the fighting in Palestine began, the Near East Arab Broadcasting station, said to be under the influence of the British War Office, had urged the Arabs that if they continue their war

against Israel, they would go bankrupt one by one and the Jews would win. The station added that while this might come as a surprise to some Arab quarters, unless the truth is said, there will never be peace.

Alexander Zvielli



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The Good Leader

In Presidents, Virtues Can Be Flaws (and Vice Versa)

By RICHARD L. BERKE

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S admitted immoral behavior has thrust to the forefront a fundamental question about the meaning of the American Presidency: Should the President be a moral leader? And if so, what is a moral leader?

Contrasting themselves with Mr. Clinton, candidates around the country are declaring that they are virtue personified. They are emphasizing their families and the values by which they live. They are making the point, in essence, that moral leaders are role models.

Yet for some politicians, the definition of a moral leader has little to do with personal rectitude, with fearing God, being faithful to a spouse or abjuring untruths and devious business practices. They say the moral leader is the one who seizes upon the power of high office to enact policies that clarify national ideals and to inspire the people, summoning society to greatness.

Lincoln was famous for both. He steered the nation through the Civil War, boldly fought to free the slaves and was not bashful about pressing against perceived public opinion. Personally, he was Honest Abe, and also a man so modest and unassuming that he wrote shortly before he was first elected, "I do not think myself fit for Presidency."

But the ability to combine personal purity with the political skills to lead the nation toward larger civic accomplishments has eluded most Presidents. Given the choice, Americans these days appear willing to put up with a leader who has personal flaws, even serious ones.

Short of the Ideal

In a nationwide New York Times/CBS News Poll conducted last week, only 21 percent of the public said it was most important that Presidents serve as moral role models; 65 percent said it was more important that Presidents do their job well.

"In an ideal world, the President would be the paragon of virtue," said former Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, the New York Democrat. "The reality is that no human has been able to reach the ideal of leadership in which they reflect the best of virtue all the time. We don't trust politicians to be our moral arbiter. We'd like them to be. But we don't expect it."

Former Senator Mike Mansfield, a Montana Democrat and longtime Senate majority leader, argued that there cannot help but be diminished expectations in an age when Presidents face great scrutiny. After all, today they are expected to reveal the type of underwear they prefer.

"There was a time when people expected Presidents to be Superman," said Mr. Mansfield, who is 95. "But that time is long gone. The Presidency and the people are now being drawn closer and closer together due to the media. No President is on the pedestal any more."

That does not mean that people no longer yearn for leaders whom they view as beyond reproach. Still, most people probably look for the qualities that they most desire at the moment. With the economy humming along and the nation secure, there is probably no special demand for inspiring leadership.

Henry F. Graff, a professor emeritus of history at Columbia University, said "the wheel of history has to turn fortuitously" for a President to have the opportunity to exhibit moral leadership.

"You don't know whether a person is a moral leader unless they have something to lead for," he said. "Wars and depressions are good places to show off leadership."

Herbert Hoover, for example, was so scrupulously honest that he did not collect his salary as President. (He was also a millionaire.) But his efforts to be a moral leader were spoiled by the Great Depression. One of the few Presidents who is widely regarded as a true moral leader during a time of peace was Theodore Roosevelt, who from his "bully pul-



Franklin Roosevelt



Coolidge



Ford



Lincoln



Harding



Nixon



Jackson



Wilson



Carter



Kennedy



Johnson



Reagan

Theodore Roosevelt

pit" preached again and again about honesty in Government.

For all the talk of integrity, some people may not be more comfortable with a President who commands the same personal respect as, say, a member of the clergy. To reach the highest elective office, a person, no matter how upright in public, has to

be a master at the inherently devious game of politics.

A common perception is that politicians who are too clean may find it too distasteful to do some of the unsavory things that a President must do, like outmaneuver political opponents.

"We don't necessarily want them

to be Mother Teresa — We don't necessarily want them to be pure as can be," said Thomas E. Cronin, an authority on American Presidents and president of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash. "The world of international affairs requires a toughness of demeanor."

There is a rich history of Presi-

dents who, personally, were viewed as beyond reproach but never accomplished much for the country. Just the same, Presidents considered rogues are viewed as successful moral leaders.

While known for his Christian principles, Woodrow Wilson's naïveté in dealing with the European pow-

ers helped set the stage for World War II, and his off-putting aloofness disposed the nation to elect the more genial, and flawed, Warren G. Harding as his successor. After Mr. Harding's death in 1923, his Vice President, Calvin Coolidge, succeeded him and restored respectability to a White House blackened by Teapot Dome and other scandals. "Cautious Cal" was a New England Calvinist known for his morality, honesty and frugality. But he was also conspicuously shy, a wooden speaker and failed to win passage of much of his legislative agenda.

More recently, John F. Kennedy has been remembered for having endless trysts. While his unfaithfulness wasn't generally known at the time, his virility enhanced his stature then and, more important, still does to some extent today. Lyndon B. Johnson, himself no exemplar of marital fidelity, had an admired reputation for effective leadership that owed much to the fact that he was a dirty political fighter.

No one ever questioned the uprightness of President Gerald R. Ford or his successor, Jimmy Carter, who in the 1976 campaign presented himself as an antidote to the dishonesty of government in the Watergate era. "I don't intend to break a single promise," he vowed in the campaign.

Yet for all his trustworthiness, Mr. Carter was never able to parlay his personal character into effective championing of larger societal values during his tenure. And neither Mr. Ford nor Mr. Carter has been viewed as particularly effective Presidents.

Eye of Beholder

Just about any President would be considered downright charming, and virtuous, if compared with Andrew Jackson, a dictatorial, nasty, temperamental man who always seemed to find himself facing down an opponent in a duel with a pistol. But that did not prevent Mr. Jackson from earning a place in history as a respectable President symbolizing abiding national values.

And Franklin D. Roosevelt, the President viewed by many as America's most effective moral leader this century — revered even as he forced Americans to make huge personal sacrifices in the Depression and in World War II — was hardly a role model in private life. He engaged in a years-long clandestine affair with Lucy Mercer, a former social secretary.

Decades later, Richard M. Nixon, in his first inaugural address, tried to muster the American spirit by invoking God repeatedly and declaring, "We can build a great cathedral of the spirit." Mr. Nixon, of course, became the first President to be forced from office because of ethical misdeeds, although many people still insist that he was an effective leader, particularly in foreign policy.

Moral leadership is often in the eye of the beholder. Mr. Mansfield, for one, said he considers Harry S. Truman the last true moral leader in the White House because he combined high ethics in his private and public life. Yet despite the moniker "Honest Harry," Mr. Truman never could completely shake off the taint of his ties to the suspect Missouri political machine of Tom Pendergast. And Mr. Truman was not particularly popular when he was President; only recently have historians portrayed him as a heroic figure.

William Kristol, a Republican whose magazine, The Weekly Standard, promotes the view that moral leadership is more than personal conduct, said Ronald Reagan was the last truly moral leader. "Reagan really had a certain personal dignity," he said. "It was a great moral achievement of Reagan that he won the cold war. And that depended on his having his own personal moral grounding in his belief that he really was right."

But others cited Mr. Reagan's poor relations with his children and contrasted his expressions of devoutness with his failure to attend church regularly. "He could make the lofty

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Ideas & Trends

Forget the Casualties. Go Run.

By NICHOLAS WADE

FOR an outstanding athlete to die at age 38, her world records still unbroken, as Florence Griffith Joyner did last week, is a blunt reminder that fine physical condition is no guarantee of longevity.

As when the runner and author Jim Fixx died at 52 of a heart attack while jogging 14 years ago, an athlete's early death raises the question of whether too much exercise strains the heart or other parts of the body, like running a machine beyond its endurance levels. After all, exercise requires metabolism, and metabolism generates free radicals, those harmful reactive chemicals that vitamin pills and other supplements are said to combat.

The notion that vigorous sports may actually be bad for you is hardly new or illogical. Every tale of a former football player with brain damage or bad knees can reinforce a popular notion that a life committed to strenuous athletics carries bodily stress to unhealthy levels.

But there is no evidence that exercise in itself reduces life span. The truth seems to be that athletes who die young, in general, have perished from one of the usual causes of premature death. (Drug use is one.)

Hard exercise, unfortunately, seems to be rather good for the body, however much pain and perspiration is involved. Doctors in ancient times believed that vigorous exercise was harmful. And even though the Italian physician Bernardino Ramazzini of

Modena observed in 1700 that fleet-footed messengers were healthier than sedentary tailors and cobblers, the orthodox medical suspicion of heavy exercise was not dispelled until the 1930's. That was when physicians concerned about the health and longevity of university oarsmen in England and America found to their surprise that the oarsmen were living longer than the general population.

Subsequent studies have yielded mixed results. Professional baseball players were found to live no longer than the average Joe. But Finnish endurance athletes lived six years longer than average conscripts and power sportsmen an extra year and a half.

Faster. Farther. Better.

The present advice from health authorities that we should all exercise more rests largely on a continuing survey of 52,000 men who entered Harvard or the University of Pennsylvania between 1916 and 1950. The survey, by Dr. Ralph S. Paffenbarger of the Stanford University School of Medicine, shows that men who exercise hard and regularly tend to live longer.

Expending 2,000 calories a week in vigorous activity — the equivalent of jogging or walking briskly for 20 miles — bought a 25 percent reduction in the chance of dying during the study period, Dr. Paffenbarger has found. The effect was progressive at least up to 3,500 calories (35 miles) a week.

Can the body actually wear out from excessive exercise? "We do not find any hazardous level of exercise," Dr. Paffenbarger

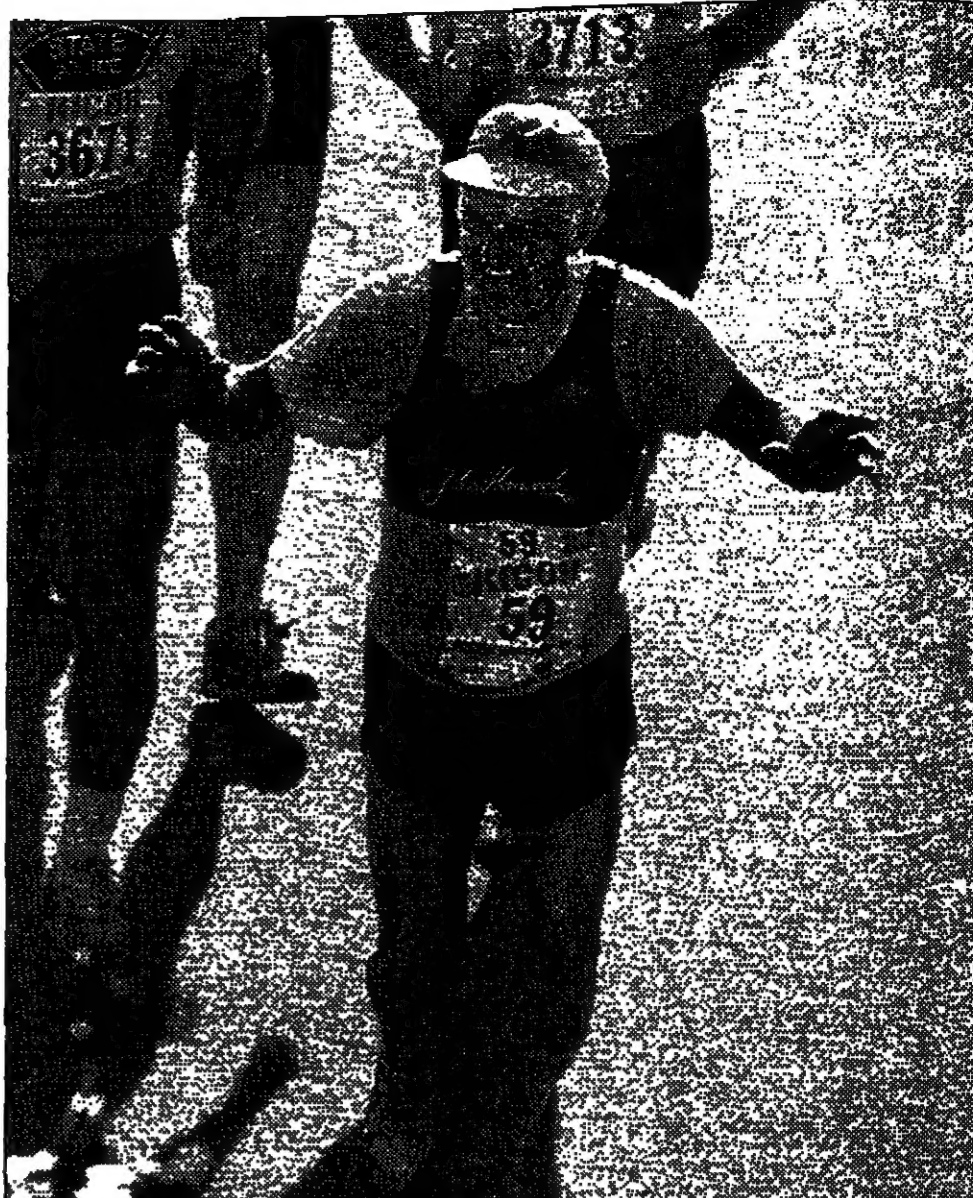
said, though he noted that even the most vigorous athletes in his study tend to exercise less as they grow older.

Star college athletes who have become sedentary live no longer than anyone else, Dr. Paffenbarger has found. But men who take up exercise later in life appear to gain the same benefits as lifelong exercisers. Dr. Paffenbarger's rule of thumb is that for each hour of vigorous physical activity, you get an extra two or three hours of life.

That may not seem so great a deal, but exercise affects more than just the quantity of life. It also improves its quality by making people feel healthier. It lowers the heart rate and blood pressure, increases the high density lipoprotein in the blood and decreases the low density lipoprotein. All of that is known to be good for the cardiovascular system.

Many people lack the time or inclination to jog 20 miles a week and health experts, rather than delivering sermons they know will be ignored, have taken to preaching that even moderate exercise is good. Though Dr. Paffenbarger's figures provide no evidence that moderate exercise prolongs life, moderate exercise produces the same kind of cardiovascular changes, though to a lesser degree, as occur in vigorous exercise. Thus it seems a reasonable bet that moderate exercise is better than none.

Jim Fixx took up running because his father died of a heart attack at 43; he himself lived until age 52. It's sad that any athlete should die in the prime of life. But without all that physical activity, death might strike even more prematurely.



John A. Kelley completed his 56th Boston Marathon in 1990, at 82.

The Good Leader

(Continued from Page 9)

statement on the beach on the anniversary of D-Day," Mr. Graff said. "But there was a feeling that there was something not quite real about him. He didn't stand 20-feet tall."

The most blatant distinction between a President's personal morals and public values was drawn by Steve Grossman, national chairman of the Democratic National Committee, speaking, as Mr. Clinton looked on, at a recent fund-raising event in New York. "Mr. President," he said, "it seems to me that you have demonstrated, at least in my adult lifetime, a higher commitment to the kind of moral leadership that I value in public service and public policy than any person I have ever met."

That tribute was hotly disputed by Republicans; even some Democrats in the room at the time rolled their eyes. With characteristic understatement, Bob Dole, who was defeated by Mr. Clinton in the 1996 campaign, said, "The D.N.C. chairman, I think, went overboard."

Republicans, and even many Democrats, these days prefer the definition of a moral leader as a role model. Republican Party officials contend that the personal values of candidates have eclipsed everything else as the most crucial issue in the November elections.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle, who is considering a run for the White House in 2000, volunteered on national TV recently that he had not had an extramarital affair. At a convention of the Christian Coalition the other day, another Republican contender, Steve Forbes, allied himself with Teddy Roosevelt.

"I have been drawn to him because he understood the enormous power of the American Presidency to shape our culture, not simply through the force of laws but through the power of persuasion," Mr. Forbes said of Mr. Roosevelt, adding, "Like Ronald Reagan, he had a compass and a core."

Risks

But the danger of campaigning on moral authority is that Republicans risk being viewed as considering themselves holier-than-thou. "There has to be a very delicate calibration in calling for moral leadership without appearing to be haughty or self-righteous," said Ralph Reed, a Republican strategist and the Christian Coalition's former executive director. "The challenge is more on the Republican side to affirm rather than condemn, to elevate right behavior rather than attack wrong behavior."

When Jimmy Carter ran for President, he did not repudiate Presidents Nixon and Ford as much as he tried to promote the general healing of the nation. Some Republican strategists said they feared that Senator John Ashcroft of Missouri, who may run for President in 2000, was skating at the line of appropriateness when he said, "We have a President who views a vulnerable woman from the perspective of a predator."

Mr. Clinton himself was asked the other day if he had the moral authority to lead the nation. "That is something you have to demonstrate every day," he said. "That will not be easy." He was probably at his peak when he could stand up and talk about family values," said Leon Panetta, Mr. Clinton's former chief of staff. "Now it would not be wise for him to talk about values except in the sense of contrition and the personal pain he's been through."

Yet even if he avoids the subject, kindling a national debate over morality in government may be Mr. Clinton's lasting legacy.



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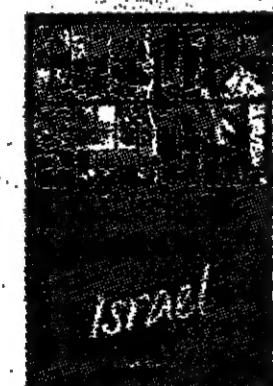
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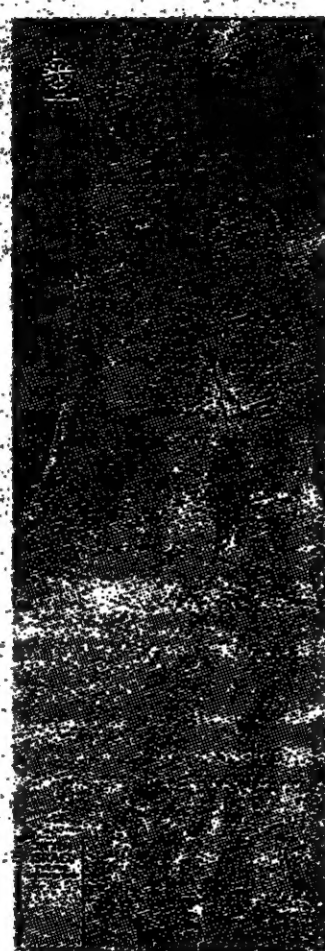
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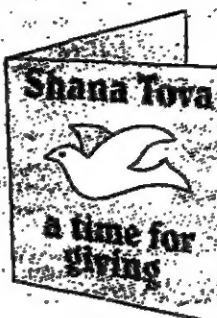
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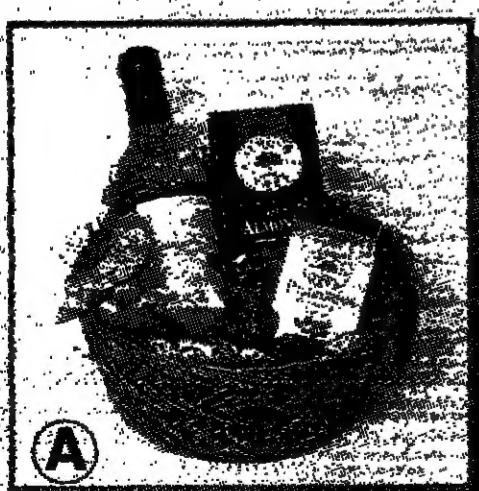
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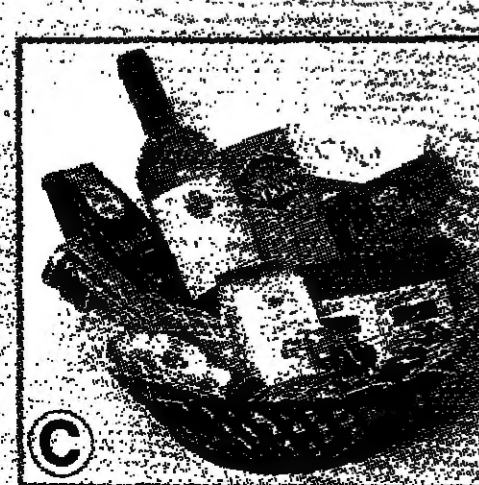
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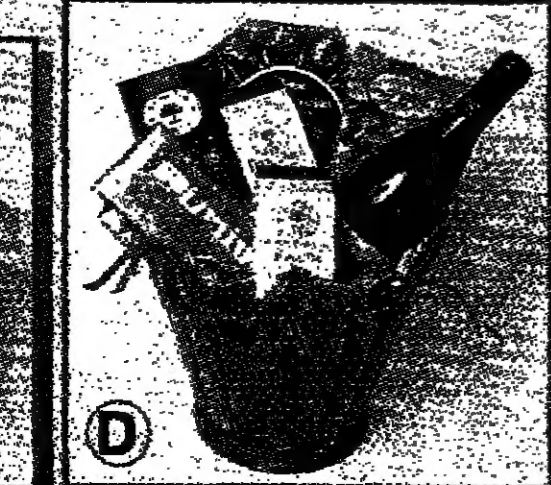
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סדרה מן הארץ



The Good Leader

The Nation

'Enabling' Is Now a Political Disease

By JOE SHARKEY

ANATION of Clinton Enablers? a headline in The New York Post queried. "We have all been enablers for Bill Clinton," declared Time magazine. Last week, an editorial in this newspaper spoke of Mr. Clinton's "documentably dysfunctional personality" and warned that "we must not become a nation of enablers." In a recent speech, the television evangelist (and sometime Clinton counselor) Robert Schuller asserted that "we all share part of the shame" for stubbornly high public approval ratings that have enabled President Clinton so far to avoid confronting the problem of his sexual behavior.

The American electorate has been called many things from the pulpit and in editorial pages. "Enabling, to describe the behavior of a nation, though—that's a new one," said Stanton Peele, an author and clinical psychologist who has studied what he regards as the two-decade-long march of the therapeutic ideal and its clinical concepts from personal behavior into ever-wider areas.

"We've developed a tendency in America to describe every personal transaction in clinical terms," he said. "So I guess, in the spirit of our times, if you're applying a clinical label to all unwanted behavior, you could apply the label 'enabler' to people who continue to support Bill Clinton." The term has recently been applied to those close to the President like Hillary Rodham Clinton, Betty Currie, his secretary, and his friend Vernon Jordan. (Grand jury testimony from the latter two is expected to be made public this week, so watch for it to crop up again.) But when commentators and clerics start using enabling to describe behavior by the general electorate, "we're entering a pretty rarefied realm," said Dr. Peele.

Some find it hard to suppress a chuckle. "A whole nation full of enablers? Is anyone treating it? What an opportunity," joked Tania Dineen, a psychologist in Ontario and the author of "Manufacturing Victims:

How pop psychology leached into politics and gave the Clinton scandal a signature buzzword.

What the Psychology Industry Is Doing to People" (Robert Davies Multimedia Publishing, 1996).

Enabler is a noun used in clinical and support-group settings to label someone who is close to (and often diagnosed as clinically "co-dependent" with) an alcoholic or other presumed addict, and whose love and emotional support allow the sufferer to deny the addiction and avoid seeking treatment. The clinical concepts of co-dependency and enabling began flourishing in the early 1980's, when employee health insurance coverage was widely expanded to cover treatment for addiction and other mental health problems. Best-selling self-help books, intense media coverage and lobbying by therapists soon widened the range of what were considered to be clinical addictions—compulsive gambling, shopping and sexual behavior among them.

Over the years, enabling has gradually moved from the clinical to the cultural vocabulary, said Dr. Peele, who in 1989 decried what he called America's "treatment binge" in "The Deseasing of America: Addiction Treatment Out of Control" (Lexington Books). Now, he said, the term seems to be metastasizing again—into the civic vocabulary of politics.

"Now we're enablers because we haven't risen up to demand that Clinton seek clinical treatment," he said. "That's a pretty whimsical concept."

In Vogue

As a purported disease, sex addiction is in vogue. Though not yet classified as a specific disorder in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, it is being widely treated as a compulsive disorder in proliferating sex-addiction support groups and clinical settings. In print and on television, leading sex-addiction therapists routinely assert that as many as 70 percent of American men suffer from some form of diagnosable sexual compulsion. And as with in any clinical addiction, it is concurrently assumed that a significant number of a non-confessed sex-addict's loved ones, acquaintances and even co-workers are "enablers" the denial to seek treatment.

Asserting that the American public is "enabling" President Clinton's behavior is "sort of the equivalent of describing the entire American society as being addicted or clinically co-dependent," said Dr. Peele. "Does that mean that all of America now has to enter therapy?"

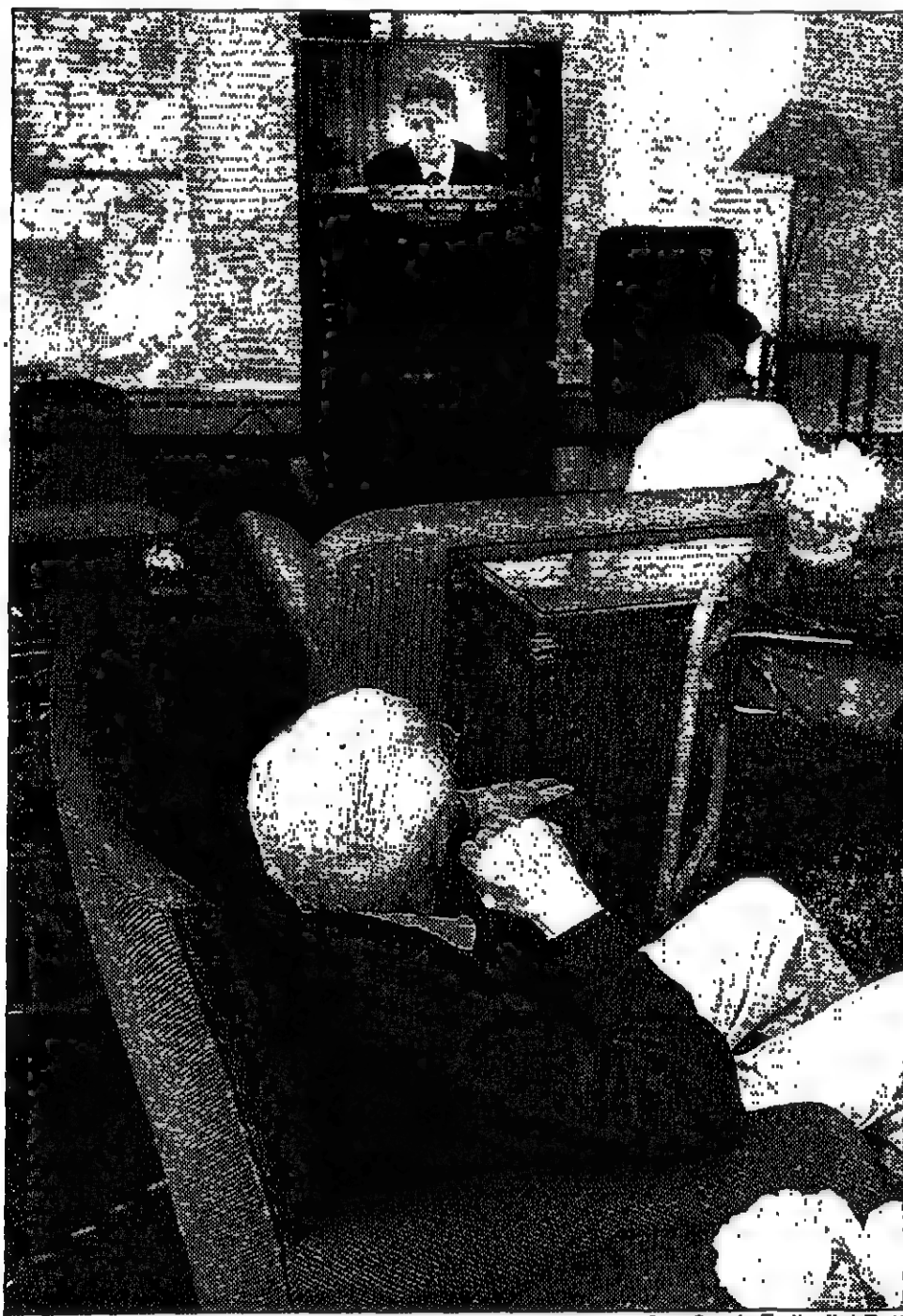
Yes, in a manner of speaking, replied Jerome D. Levin, a psychotherapist and the author of "The Clinton Syndrome: The President and the Self-Destructive Nature of Sexual Addiction" (Prima Publishing, 1998). The book argues that Mr. Clinton is a clinically addicted sex addict in denial who has been ill-served by the enabling behavior of family and associates.

The President, suggested Dr. Levin, who trains alcohol- and substance-abuse counselors at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan, should "put aside the spin doctors and lawyers," invoke the 25th Amendment, and enter a "rehab program" for addiction treatment.

"If the President were to drop his denial and get appropriate help, then I think the public would finally come to realize that in supporting him, whatever other valid rea-



Scenes of a tarnished Presidency: A mother and children watch Clinton's videotaped testimony in Arlington, Va. ...



... while residents of a retirement home tune in in Seattle ...

sons we might have had for that support, were in fact enabling his behavior. In a way similar to a wife who stays in a destructive relationship with an alcoholic."

Laughing, Dr. Levin added: "Then, if you really want a *reductio ad absurdum*, the President could return to work and invoke the Americans with Disabilities Act, meaning he couldn't be fired for his disability. It would drive the right-wing lunatic fringe nuts."

But the increasingly pseudo-clinical tone of the discourse on Mr. Clinton's problems is dismaying to Wendy Kaminer, the author of "I'm Dysfunctional, You're Dysfunctional: The Recovery Movement and Other Self-Help Fashions" (Addison Wesley, 1992), a book that skeptically described the intervention of therapy into ever-wider areas of social behavior.

"Posing the question, 'Are we enabling him to continue his sex addiction?' presumes that there is in fact such a thing as sex addiction," said Ms. Kaminer. "More importantly, it presumes we are all collectively engaged in a personal relationship with the President. We are not. It's a political relationship."

"To even ask that question is a measure of how much the therapeutic culture has distorted the political culture," she added. "It's a terrible distraction from the questions we ought to be asking about what's really happening to the country."

Unfortunately, she said, "People are much more knowledgeable about popular therapy and pop psychology than they are about politics," and are thus more fluent in the jargon of pop psychology than in the vocabulary of civics.

"We all love to gossip and we love to personalize relationships. We love soap operas. It's hardly a coincidence that of all the Clinton scandals, which are arguably more serious business, the one that has really resonated has been the one about sex."

Just Tell Us Which Sin

By GUSTAV NIEBUHR

WHEN he went before religious leaders at the White House two weeks ago, President Clinton admitted to having sinned in his relationship with the former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky.

As most people surely know by now, Ms. Lewinsky said in her grand jury testimony that she performed oral sex on Mr. Clinton. At least once, by her account, their talk apparently touched on what a Higher Authority might expect from Mr. Clinton. That was on May 24, 1997, when Mr. Clinton moved to break off the relationship. The President, she said, seemed to be "just really wanting to do the right thing in God's eyes" and for his family.

But what exactly was the sin he had committed? In his legal defenses, the President has tried to distinguish between "sexual relations" and oral sex. That isn't a distinction most Americans might make, and it certainly isn't one the Bible focuses on in defining sexual sin.

On the other hand, the Bible does single out adultery for special attention in the 10 Commandments—but defines it in a way that might surprise many people.

Most Americans would probably say that regardless of what happened between Ms. Lewinsky and the President, he committed adultery, which they understand to mean breaking the marital vows. Mr. Clinton probably added to that view by making reference at the prayer breakfast to a passage from the 51st Psalm, a cry of repentance attributed to King David after the king was rebuked by the prophet Nathan for having had sexual intercourse with a married woman, Bathsheba.

But from a biblical standpoint, could the Clinton-Lewinsky relationship be described as adultery, an act that the Old Testament defines narrowly?

Or would it be better described under the general term of sexual immorality, keeping in mind that Scripture is short on specific references to any number of sexual acts, oral sex among them?

Meanings Change

Consider how some modern dictionaries treat the subject. Webster's New World College Dictionary, for example, defines adultery as "voluntary sexual intercourse" between a married person and someone not his or her spouse.

The Old Testament is more precise. Leviticus 20:10, which prescribes the death penalty for adulterers, speaks of a man "that committeth adultery with another man's wife." So adultery meant sexual intercourse between a man and a married woman not his wife.

As the magisterial Anchor Bible Dictionary (Double-day, 1992) puts it, the man's marital status was "inconsequential since only the married or betrothed woman" was "bound to fidelity." The prohibition was not so much about a husband's feelings—as about knowing who had fathered a baby. Thus, it worked to safeguard issues of family succession and property rights.

Nevertheless, Rabbi Robert Harris, an assistant professor of Bible at Jewish Theological Seminary, said that what is considered morally wrong regarding marital sexual relations has obviously grown since the Five Books of Moses were written down.

"We live according to an inherited body of tradition, which has expanded the biblical norms," Rabbi Harris said, adding that "conventional modern understanding" of adultery is based on a broader rejection of marital infidelity. "We have a more egalitarian society than the Bible," he said.

Clergy members say too that the overall sexual ethic expounded by the Bible demands fidelity within marriage, with no loophole clauses.

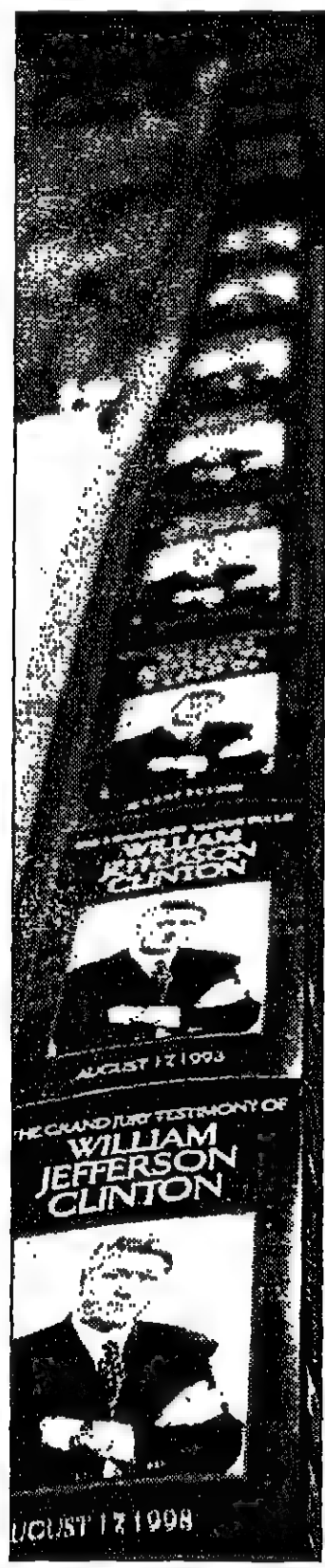
The Rev. Robert M. Friday, a professor of religion and vice president for student life at Catholic University of America, said that were he to have a talk with Mr. Clinton about his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, "I'd say it didn't have to be sexual intercourse" to constitute adultery, much less sex.

Oral sex, for example, would be "a violation of your covenant promise to Hillary," Father Friday said he would say. "So, in that way, it's very much adultery."

People familiar with Southern Baptist life say it is most unlikely that Mr. Clinton encountered a legalistic approach to adultery in the Sunday School classes of his youth. "The Southern Baptist tradition has meticulously avoided particular biblical references to human sexuality, and spoken very broadly against pre-marital and extra-marital sexuality," said Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville, Tenn.

In the New Testament gospels, some of Jesus's statements are understood to extend the definition of adultery to include infidelity by a married man. And the term fornication is broadly used to describe sexual activity outside marriage, with a warning of spiritual punishment to come to the unrepentant. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Paul lists fornicators as among those groups who will "not inherit the Kingdom of God."

Mr. Parham noted, however, that "the Bible is not a sex manual." The Bible, he said, "gives us broad values and stories that are to inform our moral behavior."



From Michigan, copies of the Clinton video head for stores.

This Is Punishing: Name That Penalty

BY now, virtually no one in the capital contends that President Clinton shouldn't be punished for his deceptions in the Lewinsky affair. But what to call the punishment?

Impeachment is the constitutional process of review by the House of Representatives and trial by the Senate, and Congressional Republicans have made it clear they intend to forge ahead, though David Letterman cracked that the President wonders whether he could just maybe be "peached." There is also censure, a ritual shaming not specified in the Constitution, but applied to President Andrew Jackson and later revoked.

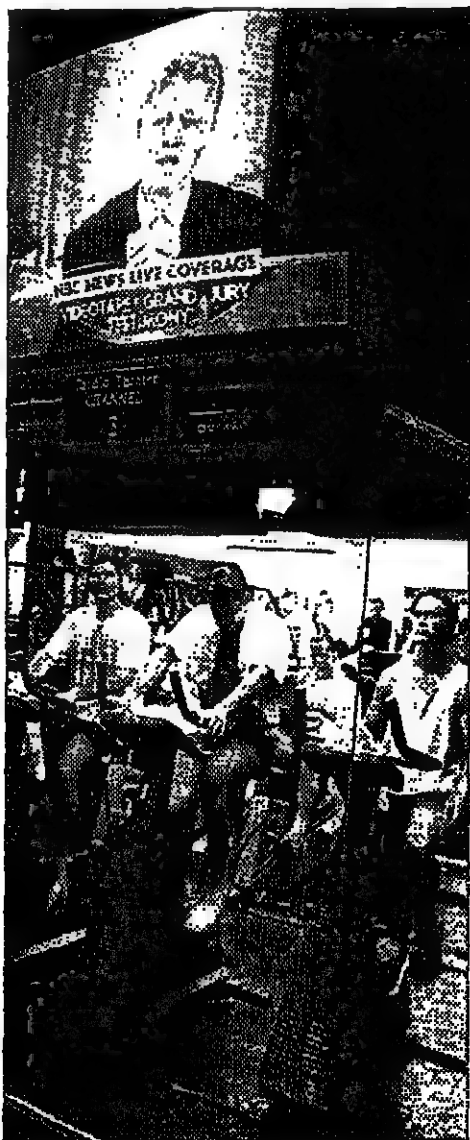
Then there is "censure-plus," an invention first floated by the former Clinton aide George Stephanopoulos and others, in which the President would pay some financial penalty as well. But The Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne

complained that censure-plus sounds like a detergent—and constitutional scholars say it may not be legal in any case.

There is sanction, which is also financially punitive, but sounds like an economic embargo on a rogue state, and besides, Mr. Clinton has already run up some \$6 million in legal bills.

There is resignation, but that is what Republicans feel about Mr. Clinton's determination never to leave office voluntarily, not the President's own plan.

"I don't care if you call it 'Impeachment with Oak Leaf cluster,' or 'Son of Censure' it won't make a whit of difference," said former Senator Alan K. Simpson, the Wyoming Republican who now heads the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. "We're right back to the same four things, and those are called pride, honesty, truth and respect, and the stain is not on the dress but on our national fabric." TODD S. PURDUM



... and exercisers in a Manhattan health club listen up.

The World

In Turkey, at Least, the Dogs of War Still Howl

By STEPHEN KINZER

FEW spectacles in recent decades have been as breathtaking as the historic handshakes between government leaders and chieftains of insurgent groups. From Central America to Israel and from South Africa to Northern Ireland, these scenes, which for years or decades were unthinkable, have shattered old assumptions and opened up new futures for long-suffering groups of people.

In each of these places, politicians and generals spent years denouncing rebel leaders as terrorists and swearing never to compromise with them. It was not easy for them to change their minds, considering the images of bombings, murders and tearful funerals that even now burn in their memories.

Now two more of the world's rebel armies, watching the breakthrough in Northern Ireland from opposite corners of the European land mass, have called unilateral cease-fires and declared their willingness to talk peace. But the two approaches have met with diametrically opposed reactions, and the difference is revealing.

In Spain, a cease-fire announced by the Basque separatist group ETA set off a political earthquake. Prime Minister José María Aznar cut short a tour of South America to rush home. Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja appeared live on national television to say that while he was uncertain of the ETA's sincerity, he welcomed the cease-fire with "happiness and relief."

Time to Heal

"Time will be the judge of the sincerity, authenticity and depth of this decision," Mr. Mayor Oreja said. But he added, "While there is a truce, there will be no tragedy, no deaths."

At almost the same time, the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which is fighting to create a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey, also offered a cease-fire. The party leader, Abdullah Öcalan, said his forces would not attack Turkish troops as long as troops did not attack them.

"We have been fighting for years, and now we have chosen peace," Mr. Öcalan told journalists by telephone from an undisclosed location. "We should be given a fair chance in politics. If we are given this chance in a democratic way, we will give up our arms. We are ready for it."

Mr. Öcalan's offer, like at least three others



In 1995 Kurds in Berlin, including this girl's mother, staged a hunger strike to protest the treatment of their ethnic group by Turkey.

he has made in recent years, fell on deaf ears. The Turkish military, which does not take orders from civilians, refused to budge from its long-held view that negotiating with "separatist terrorists" is unthinkable. A Government spokesman said the cease-fire offer was "not to be taken seriously." Soon afterward the army launched a major offensive in which it said 53 insurgents died.

"They did not abide by the truce we declared," Mr. Öcalan said as he announced a resumption of his violent campaign. "We will intensify our attacks."

The ETA campaign in Spain has cost nearly 800 lives over 30 years. Savage as it has been, it is dwarfed in scope by the Kurdish war, which has taken more than 28,000 lives in 14 years. Some might imagine that the toll Turkey has paid would make its

people war-weary, but in some quarters it has had the opposite effect. Nationalist groups are powerful here, and they would explode in anger at any hint of a negotiated settlement.

Fear of Weakness

Turkish generals believe that negotiating would be a form of surrender, and would constitute intolerable disrespect to soldiers who have been killed over the years. They also fear that since Kurdish rebels are supported by Syria, one of Turkey's principal enemies, any concession to them would be seen as a sign that Turkey is vulnerable to pressure from hostile powers.

The Kurdish conflict has hurt Turkey economically, because it costs the army an

estimated \$8 billion each year and thus feeds one of the world's highest inflation rates; socially, because it has sent hundreds of thousands of refugees streaming from the war zone into big cities that are ill-prepared to receive them; politically, because it forces the Government to restrict democracy by banning parties that advocate Kurdish nationalism; internationally, because it gives Turkey the image of a warlike nation unwilling to follow the path of reconciliation. And all the while, it hardens hearts on both sides and leads people to accept bloodshed and terror as inevitable.

Perhaps the most important reason Spain and Turkey responded so differently to cease-fire calls is the difference in their form of government. Spain is a full democracy in which voters can choose any party and

political platform. Turkey is a semi-democracy in which the military makes final decisions on key questions of national security.

Although a new group of commanders took over control of the Turkish military last month, there is no hint that their resolve to carry on the Kurdish war is weakening. Even urging them to change their minds is considered close to treason. Politicians or journalists who describe the insurgents as authentic representatives of the Kurdish people, or who call for a negotiated end to the conflict, risk prosecution and imprisonment.

Recently, however, one Turkish politician who is a pillar of the establishment, Huseyin Cindoruk, broke ranks and urged the military to consider a solution along the lines of Northern Ireland's. Skeptics suggested

Forget Ulster and Israel. Here's a place where the army just won't hear a guerrilla offer of a truce.

that Mr. Cindoruk, a conservative who heads one of the three parties in the coalition Government, was just tawdling for Kurdish votes. Still, his words amazed many Turks.

If other mainstream political leaders begin speaking like him, pressure may build on the military to re-examine its approach to the conflict. So far, however, that seems inconceivable. For the moment, the only hope for peace talks here comes from the example of other countries. After all, it was for years inconceivable that Irish nationalists would join their longtime enemies in a new assembly, or that Yasir Arafat would shake hands with an Israeli Prime Minister, or that the leader of South Africa's apartheid regime would embrace Nelson Mandela as a partner.

There is, too, the example of Nicaragua, where, in the mid-1980's, the Sandinista Interior Minister, Tomás Borge, vowed, "Before we talk to the contra leaders, rivers will flow uphill from the seashore to the mountains, and the sun will rise in the west and set in the east." Two years later, contra and Sandinista leaders stood together on a makeshift stage, joined in singing their national anthem, and signed a treaty ending their war.

KOFI ANNAN'S Astonishing Facts!

Every year, the United Nations Human Development Report looks for a new way to measure the lives of people. Fittingly, since faceless statistics like per capita gross domestic product or export-import figures, the report focuses on the facts about what children eat, who goes to school, whether there is clean water to drink, how families share in the economy or what people's lives are like. It is a report that goes to the heart of the matter.

THE RICHES The richest fifth of the world's people consumes 86 percent of all goods and services while the poorest fifth consumes just 1.3 percent. Indeed, the richest fifth consumes 45 percent of all meat and fish, 58 percent of all energy used and 84 percent of all paper, has 74 percent of all telephone lines and owns 87 percent of all vehicles.

NATURAL RESOURCES Since 1970, the world's forests have declined from 4.4 square miles per 1,000 people to 2.8 square miles per 1,000 people. In addition, a quarter of the world's fish stocks have been depleted or are in danger of being depleted and another 44 percent are being fished at their biological limit.



THE GANGES The Ganges River symbolizes purification to Hindus, who believe drinking or bathing in its waters will lead to salvation. But 29 cities, 70 towns and countless villages deposit about 345 million gallons of raw sewage a day directly into the river. Factories add 70 million gallons of industrial waste and farmers are responsible for another 6 million tons of chemical fertilizer and 9,000 tons of pesticides.

THE ULTRA RICH The three richest people in the world have assets that exceed the combined gross domestic product of the 48 least developed countries.

AFRICA The average African household today consumes 20 percent less than it did 25 years ago.

on killing even though they are preventable. This year, the report takes its first look at what people have from simple toilets to family cars and what proportion of the world's goods and services are consumed, comparatively, by the rich and by the poor. The pie is huge. The world's consumption bill is \$2.7 trillion a year. But some savings are very small indeed.

BARBARA CROSSETTE

THE SUPER RICH The world's 225 richest individuals, of whom 60 are Americans with total assets of \$311 billion, have a combined wealth of over \$1 trillion—equal to the annual income of the poorest 47 percent of the entire world's population.

COSMETICS AND EDUCATION Americans spend \$8 billion a year on cosmetics—\$2 billion more than the estimated annual total needed to provide basic education for everyone in the world.



THE HAVE NOTS Of the 4.4 billion people in developing countries, nearly three-fifths lack access to safe sewers, a third have no access to clean water, a quarter do not have adequate housing and a fifth have no access to modern health services of any kind.

MEAT Americans each consume an average of 260 pounds of meat a year. In Bangladesh, the average is six and a half pounds.



THE FUTURE By 2050, 8 billion of the world's projected 9.5 billion people—up from about 6 billion today—will be living in developing countries.

SMOKE Of the estimated 2.7 million annual deaths from air pollution, 2.2 million are from indoor pollution—including smoke from dung and wood burned as fuel, which is more harmful than tobacco smoke. 80 percent of the victims are rural poor in developing countries.

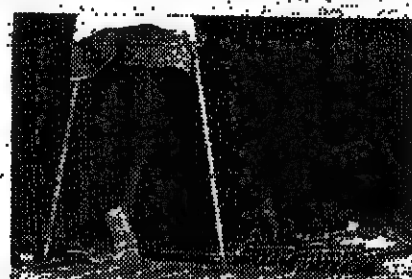


Wristwatches and Radios Two-thirds of India's 80 million lowest income households live below the poverty line—but more than 50 percent of these impoverished people own wristwatches, 41 percent own bicycles, 31 percent own radios and 19 percent own fans.

TELEPHONE LINES Sweden and the United States have 691 and 626 telephone lines per 1,000 people, respectively. Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have one line per 1,000 people.

ICE CREAM AND WATER Europeans spend \$1.1 billion a year on ice cream—\$2 billion more than the estimated annual total needed to provide clean water and safe sewers for the world's population.

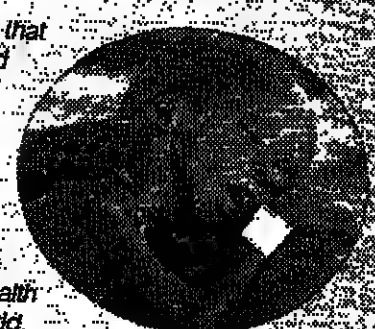
AIDS At the end of 1997, over 30 million people were living with HIV. With about 16,000 new infections a day—90 percent in developing countries—it is now estimated that more than 40 million people will be living with HIV in 2000.



LAND MINES More than 70 million active land mines are scattered in 68 countries, with an equal number stockpiled around the world. Every month more than 2,000 people are injured or killed by mine explosions.

PET FOOD AND HEALTH Americans and Europeans spend \$17 billion a year on pet food—\$4 billion more than the estimated annual additional total needed to provide basic health and nutrition for everyone in the world.

\$40 BILLION A YEAR It is estimated that the additional cost of achieving and maintaining universal access to basic education for all, basic health care for all, reproductive health care for all women, adequate food for all and clean water and safe sewers for all is roughly \$40 billion a year—or less than 4 percent of the combined wealth of the 225 richest people in the world.



Peter C.T. Elward/The New York Times

ECONOMY

Oligarchs Who Brought Russia to Its Knees Are Fading

By TIMOTHY L. O'BRIEN

FEW Russians harvested the spoils of Russia's troubled encounter with capitalism as feverishly as Vladimir Potanin, a young Soviet bureaucrat who in a few short years had parlayed his Kremlin ties into a sprawling business empire.

As recently as last year, Mr. Potanin was a high-ranking member of Boris N. Yeltsin's Government. At the same time, he controlled a cluster of important Russian financial and industrial companies that employed about 400,000 people, had won the support of Western investors like George Soros, and was a member of a voracious clique of Russian businessmen known as the oligarchs.

Defying exploiting lucrative opportunities that came with privatization, the oligarchs gained easy access to Government officials, used dubious tactics to snare control of huge industrial concerns and are widely suspected of siphoning cash from the companies they acquired.

Many here are saying the oligarchs' glory days are over. "There are no oligarchs anymore because they're all bankrupt," said Vyacheslav Nikonov, president of a Moscow research group. "The Government, if it wanted, could always have destroyed the oligarchs in a minute. But no one wanted to destroy the banking system."

Indeed, the breathtaking collapse of the Russian economy, and the failure of Russia's leadership to deliver on the promises of free-market reform, have severely battered the oligarchs' businesses. Russia's new Prime Minister, Yevgeny M. Primakov, is likely to be less amenable to their interests.

Still, these are men who negotiated the transition from Communism to Russia's brand of capitalism with aplomb, and no one should underestimate their survival skills as circumstances evolve.

Though besieged, Mr. Potanin continues to command international attention. He flustered financial markets last week when he warned that Russia would sooner default on its debt than risk disrupting "social peace." A senior official of the International Monetary Fund called the statement a form of "blackmail."

Among themselves, the oligarchs have engaged in increasingly vitriolic spats lately, and some of them scoff at Mr. Potanin's attempt to occupy the moral high ground.

"Unlike some of my competitors, I don't try to hide what I have," said Aleksandr Smolensky, the elusive chairman of SBS-Agro, a large, now shellshocked savings bank. "Those who were doing real banking in Russia will survive. Those who were speculating and grabbing state property won't."

But while banks were the foundation of many fortunes in Russia in the 1990's, they engaged in relatively little "real banking." Instead of playing the textbook role of taking deposits and lending money to fuel growth, Russian banks, including Uneximbank, became sprawling, industrial Goliaths, gorging themselves on wagers made in overheated financial markets.

And although they might suffer one another's barbs, the oligarchs dwell in a thuggish, often violent

business world that brooks little opposition. A St. Petersburg journalist investigating Russian banks was beaten to death last month, and the Mayor of a Siberian town was murdered earlier this year after pressing local oil companies to pay delinquent taxes and salaries.

Mr. Potanin's career epitomizes an era in which the hopes of Western investors and Governments came to repose in a handful of power brokers. These big players reaped vast fortunes through free-wheeling practices in which conflict of interest was endemic and regulatory scrutiny virtually nonexistent.

Married, with one child, Mr. Potanin was born in Moscow into a privileged family. His father, Oleg, was a high-ranking official in the Foreign Trade Ministry and guided his son's career. With his father's sponsorship, Mr. Potanin gained entrance to the elite Institute of International Relations and then joined the ministry himself. Fluent in French and conversant in English, Mr. Potanin was given a post trading raw materials for the Government.

The oligarchs depended on high-ranking Communist Party officials or former state organizations for their initial financing and business deals; Mr. Potanin was no exception. When he left the Government in 1991 to start his own trading company, Interros, the state's biggest raw materials exporters backed him.

Attractive as this business was, Interros hit the jackpot when Mr. Potanin opened Uneximbank in 1993 with funds from the Government's foreign-trade bank. These were still the early days of privatization, and Uneximbank was one of thousands of new private banks set up across Russia, ostensibly to finance an economic rebirth.

Banks could be started by anyone with about \$1.5 million in capital and an office. Western and Russian bankers, along with law enforcement officials, said many of the smaller and midsize banks are now controlled by criminals and corrupt officials. The very biggest — those that are owned by the oligarchs — have been used for empire building and speculation. Few were managed with caution.

But the bank and the young tycoon who owned it grew wealthy together — and with blinding speed. By the end of last year, it had \$3.8 billion in assets, small by Western standards but enough to make it the largest and most prestigious private commercial bank in Russia.

Such was Mr. Potanin's reputation abroad that Mr. Soros backed him last year to buy a stake in Syazinvest, a holding company with a majority stake in scores of local telephone companies throughout Russia. Mr. Soros did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

THE headquarters of Mr. Potanin's empire, Uneximbank, resembles a fortress as much as a financial institution. Armed guards, metal detectors and electronic gates protect the entrance to the main building, which is on a commercial boulevard lined with monolithic slabs housing a series of Russia's leading banks.

But the bank has proved to be the foundation of an empire built on sand. Its tenuous prosperity rested on a lucrative but unstable niche in Russian securities markets and an inside track that it navigated with a

heavy hand during auctions of formerly state-owned companies beginning in 1995.

Mr. Potanin was retained as a consultant to the Government and designed the auction process, known as loans for shares. The auctions were overseen by Anatoly Chubais, one of the sponsors in Mr. Yeltsin's administration and a leading reformer.

Loans for shares was riddled with cozy deals that put well-connected businessmen in control of key Russian industries at fire-sale prices. The auctions gave Uneximbank control of Norilsk Nickel, one of the world's largest nickel producers; Sibneft, Russia's fifth-largest oil company; and a bevy of other industrial concerns. Uneximbank was appointed by the Government to run the Norilsk auction — and somehow won with a bid just \$100,000 above the opening price of \$170 million after disqualifying a competing bid of \$350 million.

"It was bad," Mr. Potanin said of the auctions. "The prices were cheap. We can stop discussing this. It was bad. But it did solve the problem of having more efficient owners."

But the oligarchs have hardly been dynamic managers. Although Mr. Potanin said Uneximbank invested about \$400 million upgrading Norilsk, financial analysts and others familiar with the company said little had been done to modernize Norilsk or its other holdings.

"The oligarchs were qualified to run banks only because of their familiarity with the corridors of power," said Andrei Piontovsky, director of the Center for Strategic Studies in Moscow. "Uneximbank never had any interest in improving manufacturing at any of its companies. It just wanted to channel money through the bank."

Because of limited financial disclosures and virtually nonexistent regulatory oversight, it is impossible to know the terms of any loans the oligarchs' banks made to industrial companies they controlled. Once loans were disbursed to captive borrowers, it would have been easy for the money to find its way back into bankers' pockets.

"It would have been O.K. if these loans were made on an arms-length basis. But they weren't," said a financial analyst who has seen confidential audits of Russian bank loans but requested anonymity. "When some banks made loans they didn't specify interest rates or even when the loans had to be paid back."

Mr. Potanin said Uneximbank has rigorous lending standards. But he declined to provide information on how much of Uneximbank's lending was steered toward companies it owned.

Russian banks enlisted the aid of Western accountants, who helped give at least a veneer of respectability to the banks' operations. For example, in March of this year, Deloitte & Touche gave a highly conditional thumbs-up to Uneximbank's accounts, warning that they did not fully meet international standards.

AFTER playing an integral role in Mr. Yeltsin's 1996 re-election campaign, Mr. Potanin was named first Deputy Prime Minister for economic reform, a Government post some accused him of using for personal gain. He left that job early last year.

Mr. Potanin said that "during my

A Latter-Day Russian Empire

Vladimir Potanin's vast collection of businesses — from banks to newspapers to mines — earned him ranking among Russia's business oligarchs. With the collapse of the Russian economy, Mr. Potanin's grip on his realm is slipping; at best, an empire once valued at \$10 billion may now be worth \$2 billion.

INTERROS GROUP

INDUSTRIAL GROUP

Norilsk Nickel Largest Russian nickel producer; also mines cobalt, platinum, copper

Sibneft Fifth-largest Russian oil producer, with 32 subsidiaries

Svyazinvest Telecommunications holding company

Perma Motors Makes aircraft engines and rockets

Novolipetsk Metal Works Steel producer; largest supplier to Russian auto industry

Military industry companies

FINANCIAL GROUP

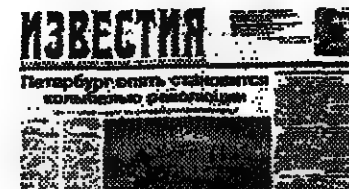
Uneximbank Largest commercial bank in Russia; will be made part of a new bank called Rosbank

MFK Renaissance Group Largest Russian-owned investment bank; but in serious financial trouble

Insurance Group Life and health insurance companies

Asset Management Group Mutual and pension funds

Regional banks and financial organizations



The daily newspaper Izvestia.

MEDIA GROUP

Komsomolskaya Pravda Former newspaper of the Communist Youth League

Izvestia Newspaper; former organ of the Soviet Government

Expert Weekly business magazine

Russky Telegraph Daily business newspaper, recently folded into Izvestia

Regional television and radio outlets



A Norilsk Nickel plant.

James Hill for The New York Times

Source: Uneximbank Web Site

The New York Times

stay in the Government, Uneximbank received nothing." But while serving in the Government, he drafted a decree that, among other things, had the effect of forgiving huge tax debts owed by companies that included one of his own, Norilsk.

And in 1997, a few months after Mr. Potanin departed from the Government, the Russian Central Bank started an investigation into accusations that hundreds of millions of dollars of Government money had been diverted to Uneximbank and another private bank.

Andrei Vavilov, a former Deputy Finance Minister who became president of an Uneximbank affiliate, MFK Renaissance, after leaving the Government, was accused by the chairman of the central bank of being behind the diversion. The investigation is continuing, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency. Mr. Vavilov could not be reached for comment, but he has denied the accusations. Mr. Potanin declined to comment specifically on matters involving Mr. Vavilov, but said the accusations were baseless.

Like other banks, Uneximbank also minted riches, albeit briefly, during the speculative fever that infected the Russian bond market last year. To fill yawning budget gaps, the Russian Government had been issuing short-term treasury bills known as G.K.O.'s, paying sky-high interest rates to keep investors intrigued. Banks were required to hold a certain amount of G.K.O.'s in their coffers, but analysts said many — including Uneximbank — held far more than was healthy.

When it became apparent that the G.K.O. shell game had come to an end, the Government — realizing it could no longer service its debt and being pressured by banks to protect their interests — announced a catastrophic devaluation and debt moratorium.

The economic collapse that ensued has left Mr. Potanin's empire in tatters.

But it could have been worse for the oligarchs had they not boldly exercised their remaining power over Mr. Yeltsin. Although Russia told the world on Monday, Aug. 17, that it planned to devalue the ruble and restructure its debt, prompting swan dives by markets around the globe, the oligarchs had been informed of the Kremlin's intentions the previous Friday night, according to people familiar with the events.

By Saturday, Aug. 15, Mr. Potanin and others were buddled with leading Government officials in Moscow's White House. They complained that the devaluation and restructuring would ruin them unless it included a 90-day moratorium allowing them to forgo repaying foreign debts. The next day, the Government acquiesced to the oligarchs' demands. When the devaluation was unveiled on Aug. 17, a moratorium was part of the package, infuriating foreign investors and accelerating their flight.

Like most Russian banks, Mr. Potanin's institution is now teetering. According to Western bankers, Uneximbank has about \$700 million in derivatives liabilities that it cannot pay.

Mr. Potanin said his media holdings, including the prestigious daily newspaper Izvestia, once the official organ of the Soviet state, are in dire straits. His industrial companies are laying off workers and cutting back production. He said all of his holdings, once valued at about \$10 billion, were now worth just \$2 billion. But most analysts said Interros's assets were worth only a few hundred million dollars, if that much.

Mr. Potanin has warned that he will be unable to pay his foreign debts unless his lenders renegotiate. Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Serv-

ice, which has repeatedly downgraded the debt of Russian banks, lowered the ratings of Uneximbank and others again last week. At a Ca rating, Uneximbank's senior debt is well below investment grade.

And creditors are crying foul, contending that the oligarchs are hiding loot in offshore accounts.

Credit Suisse First Boston, which is facing large losses from its own overzealous speculation in Russia, estimated that Russian companies spirited about \$66 billion out of the country from 1994 to last year.

"I think what the global investment community is seeing is the irresponsibility of the Russian Government," said Michael Eggleton, a managing director with Credit Suisse. "This will be the benchmark for future investment in Russia."

EARLIER this year, Mr. Potanin established Interros Group as a holding company, with Uneximbank and other parts of his dwindling empire as its subsidiaries. He is planning to merge Uneximbank with two other large but troubled banks, Menatep and MOST-Bank, possibly alongside the rapidly deteriorating MFK Renaissance investment bank, into a new bank named Rosbank.

Mr. Potanin says a holding company gives him a "better business structure" that will allow him to "coordinate investments." But a holding company will also allow him to move assets, like cash, into some subsidiaries, while leaving liabilities, like large debts, in other subsidiaries that he can then abandon.

But Mr. Potanin says he has no intention of using Interros in such a fashion. "I will do everything to make it happen in a civilized way," he said, "and to assure that investors are happy."

The Autumn of the Oligarchs

Russia's top business leaders used political contacts to build far-reaching industrial and financial combines. Now, the empires of some of these businessmen, known as the oligarchs, are facing collapse, along with Russia's brand of capitalism.

Vladimir Gusinsky Controls MOST Group and owns MOST Bank. Owns ECHO radio network and NTV television network, the Sevonya newspaper and magazines.

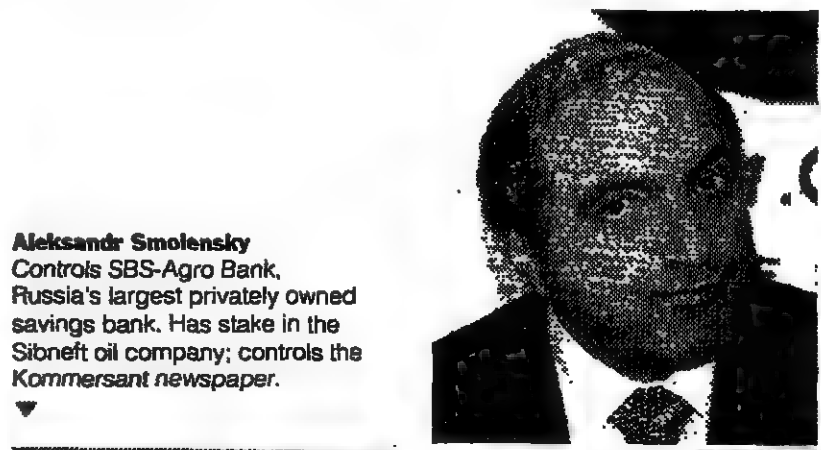
Mikhail Fridman Together with **Pyotr Aven**, not pictured, Mr. Fridman controls Alfa Group; owns Alfa Bank and Alfa Capital. Holdings include timber, glass, construction materials, oil and supermarkets.



President Boris N. Yeltsin shakes hands with Mikhail Fridman, chairman of Alfa Group, at a Kremlin meeting in June with some of Russia's most powerful businessmen.

Vladimir Potanin Chief executive of Interros Group.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky Controls Rosprom Group; owns Menatep Bank. Owns paper, chemical, oil, metallurgy, construction, textile and consumer-goods concerns.



Aleksandr Smolensky Controls SBS-Agro Bank, Russia's largest privately owned savings bank. Has stake in the Sibneft oil company; controls the Kommersant newspaper.



Boris Berezovsky Owns Russia's largest automobile holding company; said to control ORT, Russia's largest television network, and Aeroflot, the airline.

Other members of the oligarchy

Vagit Alekperov President of Russia's largest oil company, Lukoil; controls Imperial Bank and, with Vladimir Potanin, the newspaper Izvestiya.

Rem Viakhirev Chairman of Gazprom, Russia's largest natural-gas producer, with one-third of the world's reserves. Gazprom has stakes in television, newspapers and banks.

Vladimir Vinogradov Controls Inkombank, a big speculator in bonds and derivatives. Has steel, chocolate, timber and metallurgy interests.

THE ARTS

An Unstoppable Tenor Who Knows No Bounds

By ANTHONY TOMMASINI

AS weeks go in the life of the ubiquitous Plácido Domingo, the next two, though, are packed by the standards of mere mortal performers, are not that punishing.

Tomorrow night the 57-year-old tenor will celebrate the 30th anniversary, to the day, of his Metropolitan Opera debut by singing Samson to the Delila of the mezzo-soprano Olga Borodina in the production of Saint-Saëns' opera introduced last season.

The next night Mr. Domingo will conduct Verdi's "Aida." But at least he is not singing and conducting on the same day, as he has done three times at the Met, most notably on April 22, 1995, when he sang the title role of Wagner's five-hour "Parsifal" for a matinee broadcast, then went backstage, showered, had a bite to eat, donned a tux and conducted Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" that night.

For the next two weeks, however, he is staying put, which is rare for him, simply singing three more Samsons and conducting two more "Aidas." Only by the week of Oct. 12 does a more typically Domingo-esque schedule kick in: between two additional Samsons he has to rush to Washington to start rehearsing the role of Loris in Giordano's "Fedora," which will open the Washington Opera's season on Oct. 24. While there he will also attend board meetings of the company, which he also serves as artistic director.

To date, he has sung 39 roles with the Met and conducted 6 operas, for a total, coming into this week, of 551 performances, out of more than 2,800 in his entire career.

However, it's not just the extent, but the quality and consistency of his work that makes Plácido Domingo one of the most ambitious, intelligent and self-challenging artists of our time. He was an opera superstar even before the Three Tenors made him a pop culture icon. But in a way

micably vibrant musicianship, and by the husky, vibrant colorings of his voice.

"Quite honestly," Mr. Domingo said recently, "I am surprised that, at 57, I am still singing. Many singers sing longer, I know. But because of the amount of singing I have done, I thought my career would be over by now. A voice is unpredictable."

HE may be surprised, but he is not slowing down. This year alone, with the Vienna State Opera, he performed his first Jean Meyerbeer's "Le Prophète," a work famous in its day but now a novelty, and "sang like a prince," wrote the critic George W. Loomis in The International Herald Tribune. And in March at the Met Mr. Domingo will perform his first Russian role, Herman in Tchaikovsky's "Pique Dame." It's his first Russian role, he explains, if you don't count the Simpleton in "Boris Godunov" and Lensky in "Eugene Onegin," both of which he sang in Hebrew in the early 1960's as a tenor with the Israeli National Opera.

Even his Met debut, four days ahead of schedule, was frantic. Mr. Domingo, just 27, was to take over the role of Maurizio in Cilea's "Adriana Lecouvreur" from Franco Corelli. One hour before curtain time, Mr. Corelli withdrew, complaining of hoarseness. A call went out to Mr. Domingo in New Jersey, who was no doubt hoping for an evening off. All that day he had been rehearsing "Turandot" at the Met (covering the role of Calaf), and the night before he had sung "Pagliacci" with the New York City Opera. He showed up with four minutes to spare and "sounded fresh and clear," wrote Allen Hughes, a critic for The New York Times.

How does Mr. Domingo account for his vocal and mental stamina, and the debate about the character of his voice?

Recently, he reflected on these matters during lunch at the Spanish restaurant he owns on East 49th Street in Manhattan called (and why not?) Domingo. You would think he had enough to worry about without entering the risky restaurant business. "I am losing money right now," he said. "But I can afford to be patient."

Indeed he can. Mr. Domingo maintains residences in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Acapulco, Monte Carlo, Madrid and Vienna.

Part of his longevity is due to exceptional musical intelligence. He is a quite decent pianist, who can teach himself roles at the keyboard. But he does a lot of learning on planes, studying scores in silence.

Paradoxically, the main reason he gives for his endurance is his hard-won technique. He began his vocal career as a baritone and still calls himself, not so jokingly, a "baritone."

"I was never an easy tenor," he said. "I never had what you would call a top voice without any problem. I had to create my tessitura, really sweating and working, building it up, half-step by half-step."

His Wagner singing represents a triumph of vocal accommodation, which is why some devotees of German opera find his Wagner, for all its intelligence and ardency, not authentic. "That may be true," Mr. Domingo said. "But I will tell you I have had my greatest successes with Wagner roles in Bayreuth."

Every leading tenor character in Wagner, from Tannhäuser on, is in some way an outsider, a stranger who wanders in, or a searcher from afar, like the questing knight Lohengrin, and the abandoned, rootless Siegmund, and Parsifal, the confused youth befriended by the Knights of the Grail. This seems to be the way Wagner thought of the tenor voice. So, for some critics, including this one, the slight Latin tinge in Mr. Domingo's sound when he sings Wagner enriches his characterization.

His voice is resilient, but he knows it can't last much longer. So he has been preparing himself for a post-singing career. From his schedule, it would seem that he is preparing himself for several post-singing careers.

Besides the work as artistic director of the Washington Opera, and artistic adviser to the Los Angeles Opera, Mr. Domingo runs an international vocal competition, whose winners have included successful artists like Elizabeth Futral, Ainhua Arteta and José Cura.

And of course there is his conducting. The perception persists that major opera companies around the world, including the Met, having benefited from Mr. Domingo's loyalty as a tenor, have, out of gratitude and a savvy sense of box office, indulged him in his desire to conduct. His work has come in for rough treatment from some critics. Even sympathetic observers tend to agree that, though Mr. Domingo knows the scores he conducts thoroughly, his technique is insufficiently incisive.

In defense, he cites his early musical training, which included working with his parents' zarzuela company (sort of Spanish operettas). There, even as an adolescent, he was directing the chorus, coaching singers and conducting. Later, while a student at the Mexican National Conservatory, he studied first piano, then conducting (under Igor Markevitch) and



Plácido Domingo is a singer, conductor and opera-company director. He also owns a restaurant.

only later, singing. "If I had concentrated on conducting instead of singing, with the same focus, I could have been an important conductor," he said. "I'm absolutely sure." He may be right. But this is not what he did, and it will be hard to make up for that much lost time.

Mr. Domingo's training at the conservatory was cut short by his impulsive first marriage. At 16, he ran off and married a student, two years older. Soon his first son, Pepe, was born. His parents were "furious, but even more sad," he said. The marriage ended, and in 1962 he met and married his present wife, Marta, a singer who gave up her career to support his and to raise their two sons, Plácido Jr. and Alvaro.

Of course, a torrid book called "The Private Lives of the Three Tenors" by Marcia Lewis (yes, that's Monica Lewinsky's mom) alleges that Mr. Domingo's interests in women are as far-reaching as his operatic repertoire. But he has refused to discuss the book. Right now, however, much of Mr. Domingo's nonsinging time is directed toward the Washington Opera. When he accepted the artistic director's post in 1996, speculation abounded that he would be a figurehead. In fact, he has immersed himself in the work. But his tenure began with an inherited crisis.

A plan was in place to move the Washington Opera from its residence at the Kennedy Center to a landmark 1902 building, the Woodward & Lothrop department store, which was bought by the company at a bankruptcy sale for \$18 million, provided by a longtime patron, Betty Brown Casey.

The building would have required complete gutting and massive reconstruction. But the advantages were a downtown Washington location and a potentially splendid space that the company would own. Currently, the company shares its space with other Kennedy Center constituents, not to mention all touring mega-musicals.

But there was one sizable negative: a \$200 million price tag, minimum, for the renovation. "It would have been cheaper to build a completely new house," Mr. Domingo said.

At first, Mr. Domingo was tactfully vague with the press when asked about the plan. Behind the scenes, however, he persuaded his recalcitrant company that staying put was the only viable option. The Kennedy Center has promised to renovate the Opera House thoroughly and give the Washington Opera more access and space. Meanwhile, the abandoned department store gives the company a choice parcel of downtown property to sell when it wishes.

EVER since Mr. Domingo watched his parents try to run a company, he has wanted to try himself. He has gotten his wish, with the attendant headaches. But his vision is clear (for example, he insists on doing a recent American opera each year), and he is winning good notices.

And what of the Three Tenors? How does Mr. Domingo rate this unabashedly commercial endeavor beside his other work? "What do people want? Of course the Three Tenors is not an opera," he said. "But I still dedicate most of my work each year to very serious opera. So why do they mind if we do something

wonderful that the public enjoys, and we make money for it? What's the harm?"

Criticism of the money is a sore point. For the Three Tenors international tour in 1996-97 (10 cities, one performance per stop), each tenor received \$10 million, not including recording and video royalties. "Look at all the sports kids who are 16 and 17, and making a fortune. And we with 30 years of career are not entitled to make money? That's very cruel. I don't believe that opera com-

panies can pay us more than they do now, and they shouldn't. Nevertheless, we are underpaid. Every time I sing at the Met, I fill the house. But I am paid the same as another singer of less popularity, which is right. That is why we do other things like concerts, and the Three Tenors. I understand the complaints of purists. But I don't want the purists to go to the Three Tenors."

He is still seeking operatic challenges. But he has finally given up his dream of singing Wagner's Tris-

tan onstage. Even Mr. Domingo's accommodating voice has its limits. But he wants to record it, and a project involving Jane Eaglen as Isolde and Zubin Mehta as conductor is taking shape. He would dearly love to record both Siegmund and Siegfried in a complete "Ring" cycle, even though Siegfried is another role he will never sing onstage, he said.

He just might pull it off. But if not, Plácido Domingo is satisfied. "I would do it all again, everything," he said. "Even the mistakes."

TITLE MATCHES

By RANDOLPH ROSS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

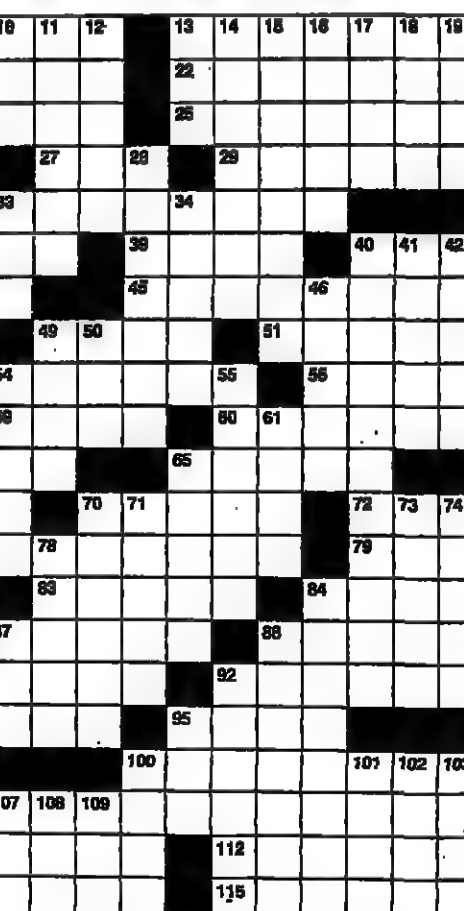
ACROSS

- 1 Playwright Norman
- 7 1943 Bogart film
- 13 Where suits are put on
- 20 Colorless ketone
- 21 Canadians and Camucks
- 22 Milieu
- 23 He should have written "What Makes Sammy Run?"
- 25 TV role for Penny
- 26 Kind of chance
- 27 Suffix with human
- 29 Toot
- 30 Fork-tailed flier
- 31 He should have written "Fear of Flying"
- 35 Handle, as insurance claims
- 38 Like some heads
- 39 Explorer Vasco da
- 40 — Lobos
- 43 Sprang
- 44 Magnate
- 45 Sight at post offices
- 46 Robbins and Russert
- 48 Coach
- 49 "Yikes!"
- 51 — vie
- 52 What candies may signify
- 53 He should have written "Green Eggs and Ham"
- 56 Social reformer Jacob
- 57 O.R. workers
- 58 Erskine Caldwell title character
- 59 Seaman's description
- 60 Start
- 62 Blade attachments
- 64 Tommy Dorsey's "Always You"
- 65 Seeress
- 66 Wasted
- 68 Rancher's enemy
- 70 Stuffy
- 72 Frequent direction givers: Abbr.
- 75 Challenge, metaphorically
- 76 He should have written "Postcards From the Edge"
- 79 Certain fighter
- 80 Many a Gary Cooper pic
- 82 Canadians or Camucks
- 83 Crash locale in "Alive"
- 84 V-chips block it
- 85 Strong objections
- 87 Oodles
- 88 72-Across recommendation
- 89 José or Juan
- 90 Kind of collar
- 91 Where Jimmy Carter taught after his Presidency
- 92 Nosebleed seats
- 93 She should have written "On the Beach"

- 95 Lorelei Lee's creator
- 96 U.S.N.A. grad
- 100 Piece of dust
- 104 Gang of Four members
- 106 He should have written "Arrowsmith"
- 110 Cabalist
- 111 Temporarily away
- 112 More virtuous than thou
- 113 Common cleanser
- 114 Eats one's heart out
- 115 Barbecue offerings

DOWN

- 1 They report to it: coils
- 2 Reynolds film "Rent"
- 3 Civil War major general Jesse
- 4 Business undertakings
- 5 Most popular
- 6 "Java" man
- 7 Blab
- 8 B.T.U. producers
- 9 Chop down
- 10 Friend of mon frère
- 11 Fix some origami
- 12 Mardike
- 13 Disney Store purchase
- 14 Bart Starr's alma mater
- 15 Libation
- 16 Touch up
- 17 Social misfit



- 18 Sister of King Arthur
- 19 Suffix with pun
- 24 Cape
- 26 Grunt: Vietnam: —, W.W.II
- 31 Foreknowledge
- 32 Muscatel?
- 33 When dark comes o'er the land
- 34 He was lost in books
- 35 Hitching post
- 36 Condescend
- 37 He should have written "Hotel"
- 38 1928 hit with the lyric "I'm in heaven when I see you smile"
- 40 He should have written "Love Story"
- 41 Song of the past
- 42 View à la Shakespeare
- 44 They have their own lines
- 46 Telephone user
- 48 Moon of Neptune
- 49 Fades
- 50 Square dance partner
- 53 TV's Peter
- 54 "Paradise Lost" character
- 55 Pops, e.g.
- 56 Over in Germany
- 63 Coastline feature
- 64 Mosque V.I.P.
- 65 Pumps have them
- 66 Goes to market
- 67 Miscellaneous
- 68 Be prophetic

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50 من الامم

Villa dweller who's a peasant at heart

Abraham Rabinovich talks to an Israeli-style, down-to-earth Don Quixote who has made the work ethic his way of life

With his son, he tamed a mountain. Now Norman Goldenberg intends to build a windmill on its slopes as a monument to the work ethic, a notion whose quaint loftiness would have appealed to Don Quixote.

Mount Eshkar, as the modest promontory is called, lies across a meadow from Goldenberg's home at the edge of Kfar Havradim in Western Galilee. When his son, Ben, was four years old, Goldenberg began to clear trails through the thickets on the mountain.

"The place was impenetrable except for goat trails. I just wanted to be able to walk on the mountain with my little boy," he says.

Over the years, Goldenberg, a US ski trooper in World War II, labored as much as 12 hours a day clearing underbrush, hacking down branches, cutting steps in the rock, and snaking boulders down the slope to shape a kilometer-long set of trails. After school, Ben would work alongside him.

Now Goldenberg intends to build a windmill on the mountain with Ben. It may be the last big project the two undertake together. Not that Norm, now 73 and slowed down by a heart ailment, is running an early checkout. It is now 16, who will be moving out soon into the wider world.

Although he lives in a villa in one of the most upscale communities in the country, Goldenberg regards himself without irony as a peasant.

"Physical work is the foundation of a decent country," he says. "Here, like in other countries, everyone is trying to climb higher and higher. People look down on blue-collar workers. We made a mistake in not building a nation of peasants — people like me who have a peasant mentality."

"I'm living in a villa — I'm not a simple hut, even without electricity, and growing my own food. I consider myself a Yankee with Yankee values."

He admits to having become quite wealthy as a builder in Massachusetts. But if money is a

disease, he cured himself.

In 1972, divorced and a father of three, he closed that chapter, which carries a pain he prefers not to talk about, and settled in Israel. After the Yom Kippur War, he trained ski troops on Mount Hermon at the request of the IDF, teaching them how to survive and fight in the snow.

He had enough money left from America to build the villa in Kfar Havradim but a heart condition prevented him from working — although not from working on the mountain — and he lives now on his social security.

"I live pretty close to the bone, but the best things in life are free." His second wife, the mother of Ben, recently died.

When his health permits, Goldenberg is on the mountain twice a day with a plastic bag to pick up anything that visitors, or even their dogs, may have left behind. "It's absolutely ridiculous that no one is paying me for this but I'll do it anyway," he says of his self-appointed maintenance duties.

A few hundred people, Galilee residents and visitors, use the trails on weekends. Children crowd into the hideaways he has woven from trees and dead branches to listen to stories or plot their own.

THE idea for the windmill has been with him a long time. "It's not a big deal. They were built by peasants all over the world and probably in this country too. It would be about eight meters tall, that's all. It would take a year to build. Just me and my boy."

"It would have canvas sails on a wooden frame. I would make it picturesque and definitely antique. Nothing modern. It doesn't have to be on the highest point of the mountain; just a flat piece of land where the wind is uninterrupted and comes straight at it."

"I told Stef Wertheimer [the industrialist who founded Kfar Havradim] years ago that a windmill would be a symbol of man's sweat and achievement and it can be very beautiful. Unsophisticated. Very rich. Like a poem. People



Goldenberg has spent 12 years clearing trails on 'his' mountain. Now he wants to build a windmill there with his son.

(Israel Sun)

would come to make paintings of it. Everybody is exploiting everything. They're ripping the country off. This would be going the other way."

The mill would not just pose for paintings, but Goldenberg has not yet decided what use it would be put to. "Grinding grain makes dust and I don't want to do things that smell, like making olive oil."

He would like to go to Portugal to visit a museum on windmills he has read about in order to get some ideas.

"When I was walking in the woods in Massachusetts as a kid I came upon a stone tower once. It

was very high, at least that's the way it looked to me as a kid. I found out that during the Revolutionary War they made bullets there. They would drop molten metal from the top and when it hit the water at the bottom it cooled and became a bullet. They called it a drop tower."

In Safed, where he lived briefly, the municipality ripped up cobblestones to make way for asphalt streets. He would like to retrieve some of those stones, worn by the feet of Jews over the centuries, and sanctify them on his mountain. "I'm not religious but I'm Jewish, you know. There's a place

on the mountain which has the feeling of a synagogue. I want 100-150 of those cobblestones to make the shape of the floor of one, pointing towards Jerusalem."

His living room is full of small, frolicsome sculptures he has made from tree branches collected on the mountain. On a mantel is an old photograph of a wooden house near Kovno in Lithuania where his mother lived.

There are also snow goggles from his days with the Tenth Mountain Division.

"What a ski trooper is essentially is a guy who knows how to cope with the worst possible conditions

and do it well. It was a very casual thing for us to spend weeks in the Rockies during training, with the weather some nights 50 degrees below zero. We learned that we didn't need hot food or shelter to survive in that kind of weather."

THE recent spate of setbacks suffered by the IDF, Goldenberg believes, is not unconnected with the national attitudes towards work. "The fault is the way we raise our children. To be a good soldier you have to develop a work ethic. In our army they want to do things the easy way."

Sometimes, reading through the memoirs he has written of his war experience, he recalls something that he had long forgotten. "I was reading this story about a friend blown up beside me and suddenly remembered that he had been running in step with me. I had never thought about it before."

"There's no point to the story, it just happened. He had been hit by two machine-gun bullets and got up and continued to run. We were in step. Then he was hit by a shell. A foot from me."

Norman Goldenberg has lived a life. Now he wants to build a windmill with his son.

'Date-and-tell' at the office

Fear of sexual harassment suits is driving some US employers to adopt 'love contracts' to deal with affairs between colleagues. Stuart Silverstein reports

After discovering last spring that two of his executives were involved in an adulterous sexual relationship, the owner of a Los Angeles manufacturing company acted swiftly.

But he didn't take the time-honored tack of transferring, rebuking or firing one or both of the lovers. Instead, he asked them to sign a two-page contract — an "informed consent" agreement intended to crimp their ability to sue the company if the relationship ever turns ugly.

Monica Ballard, a Santa Monica, California, consultant hired to meet with the two executives and help them through the legal procedure, called the incident a sign of how the workplace has changed.

"In the '50s, people sneaked around and had affairs," she said. "Now they have the CEO and strangers they've never met coming in to chat in a very adult way about their sex life."

This is the state of office romance in the late 1990s, an era when sexual harassment and other types of workplace lawsuits have employers running scared. Fading away are the days when many companies and government agencies would look the other way and risk being hit up for sexual harassment damages later.

At the same time, other bosses who once would have acted on reflex and forced out someone suspected of having an office affair now are responding more cautiously.

Rather than invite invasion-of-privacy or wrongful-termination suits, some organizations are coming up with more flexible solutions or trying to find a middle ground in dealing with love in the workplace.

Employers lately have been spurred to action by recent US Supreme Court sexual harassment rulings and, perhaps to a lesser extent, by the President Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky imbroglio. They are stepping up their harassment-prevention programs and, in the process, urging workers to alert their bosses if a workplace romance gone bad is creating problems on the job.

MANY companies and public agencies have focused mainly on romances between bosses and their staffers.

Last month, for example, New Jersey Attorney-General Peter Verniero announced a "date-and-

tell" policy for his agency. Under the rule, supervisors are supposed to report any "consensual personal relationship" that they strike up with subordinates.

Although informed consent contracts such as the one used by the Los Angeles manufacturing company remain a rarity, they are drawing attention in legal circles.

Sometimes jocularly referred to as "love contracts," these agreements are being promoted by San Francisco-based Littler Mendelson, the biggest law firm in the nation that specializes exclusively in employment issues. The pacts provide a measure of legal protection for employers who lack other options.

These developments, all told, reflect an evolution in employers' thinking since the not-too-distant past when Ross Perot, the two-time presidential candidate, boasted that he fired adulterers while he was head of Texas-based Electronic Data Systems.

Today, employers fret that fired adulterers can sue for wrongful termination, claiming that they were discriminated against because of their marital status.

The impetus for the changes hasn't come only from the daily headlines and legal developments. It also stems from the flourishing of romance as more and more women have entered the labor force and mingled with men in workplaces over the last two decades.

"Workplace romances are a part of life," said Los Angeles management attorney Mark A. McLean, a specialist in employment issues. "It happens a lot with professionals like lawyers who put in 10 or 12 hours a day and find it easiest to meet people at work."

McLean should know — he's been married for three years to a colleague he met at his previous firm.

In fact, a December 1994 poll by the American Management Association found that 24 percent of the 485 managers surveyed admitted to having had one or

more office romances. Frequently, these relationships lead to marriage. Others quietly flicker out without creating a stir.

But office romances also commonly spawn intense gossip, teasing, jealousies and charges of favoritism that can disrupt a workplace.

Even so, most major employers still have not established formal rules for dealing with workplace romance. A January poll of 617 employers by the Society for Human Resource Management, a national professional group, found that only 13% had written policies.

IN formal and informal ways, employers are banning or discouraging romantic relationships between subordinates and bosses or, when possible, arranging for the subordinate to report to someone else.

Occasionally, top executives pay a steep price for messy romantic entanglements, particularly if harassment or other abuse is alleged.

Last year, Staples Inc. President Martin Hanaka left the office-supplies retailer after a female staffer accused him of assaulting her during an argument at her apartment.

Hanaka denied any affair and the staffer later withdrew the charges, but the company concluded in an internal investigation that he violated a Staples policy restricting managers' personal relationships with subordinates.

But other executives, including chief executives who are major shareholders in their own companies, frequently ride out the sexual controversies because no one has the power, determination or courage to stop them.

Fear of sexual harassment suits appears to be the main force driving employers to adopt policies.

The "date-and-tell" rule for boss-subordinate romances at the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety was announced one day after the agency lost a sexual harassment case. A jury award-

ed the woman, a former deputy attorney-general, \$350,000.

At the Los Angeles company that used the Littler Mendelson "love contract," the situation was particularly delicate when the lawyers were brought in to work matters out. The two lovers wanted to keep things as private as possible; the man involved in the romance is married.

There were other complications, too. Even though both of the lovers are executives, the woman was in the man's chain of command.

The solution was to meet individually with the executives to make sure the relationship was welcomed by both partners, to spell out the company's anti-harassment policy and to emphasize that, if workplace harassment became an issue, they could report it to management.

Then the two lovers signed the informed-consent agreement acknowledging that they were advised of the company's policy and that their relationship was consensual.

ROBERT F. Millman, the Littler Mendelson lawyer in Los Angeles who supervised the situation, said the agreement doesn't eliminate the employer's potential liability in a sexual harassment case.

But, he said, "it's certainly not going to be the kind of case where a jury will feel much sensitivity" toward someone suing for harassment.

Some management consultants and lawyers regard the "love contract" as legal overkill that can damage morale.

"It's almost like signing your rights away, and a lot of employees are offended by companies trying to get out of future litigation by having them sign something," said Jan Salisbury, a Boise, Idaho-based workplace-practices consultant.

Employers with "date-and-tell" policies, critics say, could trample employee privacy.

Edward Martone, the executive director of the New Jersey branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the blanket policy just adopted by his state's attorney-general makes him "concerned about gay and lesbian state employees who may have to out themselves to k.p. their job. It may also force people to disclose with whom they're having an extramarital affair."

(Los Angeles Times)

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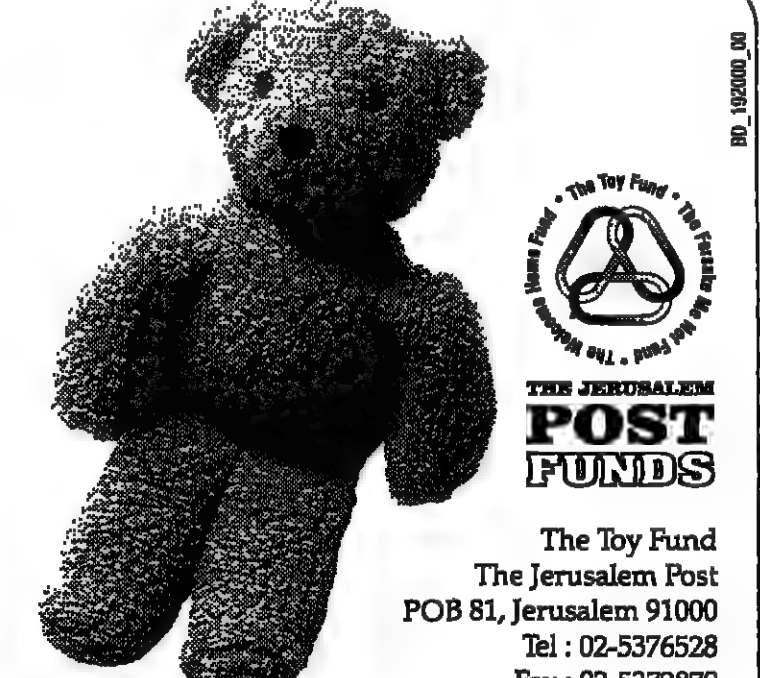
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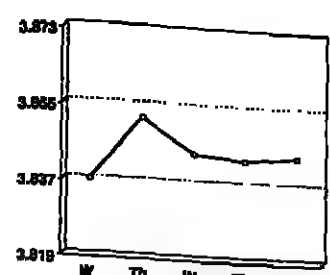
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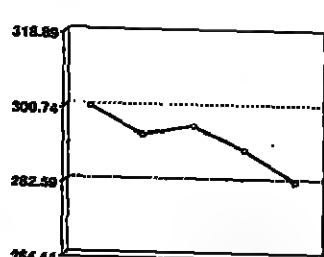
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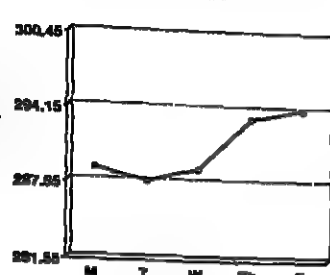
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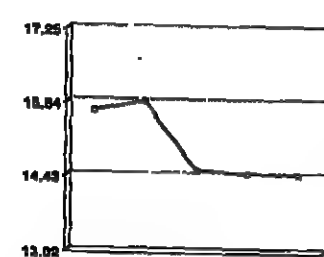
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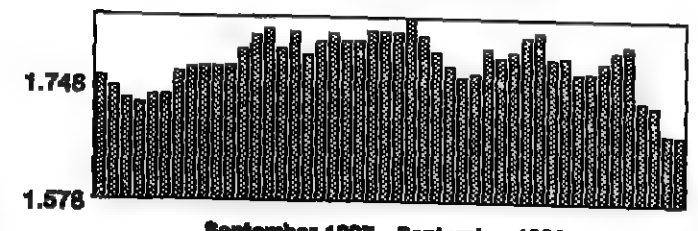
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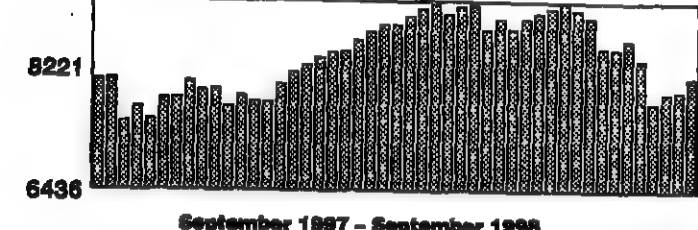
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Business Data: Fewer companies to fail in '99

Fewer companies will find themselves in financial difficulties during 1999 than have done so this year, according to a report from Business Data Israel. On the basis of the first two-thirds of 1998, the company further believes some 8 percent of all firms will report financial problems this year, compared to 7% in 1997.

David Zev Harris

PEC expanded Nice stake on eve of share plunge

PEC Israel Economic Corp., an affiliate of Discount Investments, increased its stake in Nice Systems just several days before the share of the maker of voice systems plunged some 40 percent. PEC reported on Friday that it raised its stake in Nice to 8.2% by acquiring 923,666 shares on the market between August 6 and September 23 for a price of \$28.75 to \$34.44 per share. The purchase represents a paper loss of \$4.7m. to \$7.3m. as Nice's ADR (American Depositary Receipt) plunged some 38% on Friday in New York to \$16.63 per ADR. The decline came after the maker of voice and fax equipment warned that third-quarter earnings will be below analysts estimates. The company said that revenue for the quarter is expected to be 10% to 15% lower than in the second quarter's \$24m. because of difficulties associated with the offering of its new products and a slowdown in orders received from the financial trading market sector.

Dan Gershtfeld

Industrialists to meet with PA officials

Some 100 Israeli firms have expressed interest in setting up joint companies with Palestinian and other Arab businessmen along the Gaza demarcation line, but any deals in the making are stuck in a legal mire, according to the head of the Manufacturers Association's foreign desk, Moshe Nahum. On Thursday, the association is scheduled to host a meeting with Arab representatives as part of an effort to iron out some of the problems.

David Zev Harris

State offices to close for Succot

All government offices will close for Succot from Sunday October 4 and will reopen on Tuesday October 13, the Civil Service Commission said yesterday. There will, however, be emergency cover in certain offices that deal directly with the public. This service will be available during the mornings.

David Zev Harris

Bezeq sets up internal antitrust body

Bezeq's board of directors decided last week to launch an internal program to enforce the antitrust law in the telecommunications field. Nati Bialystock-Cohen was appointed in charge of company enforcement of the law and will report directly to the director-general. The aim of the program is to inculcate among staffers the techniques and rules set by the anti-monopoly law so that the company can continue to function while observing fair competition, Bezeq announced. Cohen, 31, was previously the coordinator in charge of privatization in the Government Companies Authority.

Judy Siegel

Bezeq Int'l: Jordan blocking our access

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq International yesterday confirmed that Jordan Telecom had blocked BI's direct lines to the kingdom.

The Jordanians have claimed BI owes it \$5 million, which BI disputes.

BI explained that two weeks ago, during negotiations between the two companies, the Jordanians suddenly informed the Israelis that they wouldn't transfer calls made via BI. BI managing director Ori Yogev said that he immediately arranged alternate ways for them to call Jordan so customers won't notice any difference in service.

The Jordan Telecom action was due to a dispute over rate calculations with BI, Yogev said.

The head of the Jordanian company will arrive here soon to continue discussions of the problem.

The Foreign Ministry and Communications Ministry were informed by BI of the problem because of its sensitive nature.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



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Citing global mayhem, CPI

Central bank leaves rates at 9.5%

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

October's key lending rate will remain unchanged at 9.5 percent, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel announced yesterday.

The central bank explained that the decision was taken due to, among other factors, the ongoing uncertainty in the world's markets and the 0.5% increase in the consumer price index last month.

There's been increasing uncertainty in the [Israeli] economy of late, as witnessed in the financial markets," said a statement from the bank. "Presently, particular attention must be paid to inflationary trends and the chances of reaching the 4% inflation target the government has set for 1999."

In order to achieve this aim, the central bank said it will be making appropriate interest rate announcements during the coming months.

Last week there was some speculation that Frenkel would increase interest rates.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz last night welcomed Frenkel's decision not to increase rates, adding he understood why he was not able to cut rates in October.

However, both Manufacturers

Association President Dan Propper and Federation of Chambers of Commerce President Dan Gillerman said, as they do whenever rates are not cut, that Frenkel was mistaken in not reducing rates. Gillerman called on the government to insist that Frenkel make a significant cut in rates.

Since January the central bank has cut the key lending rate by an aggregate 3.9% and by 7.5% since July 1996.

Meanwhile, the central bank also released its August index of integrated economic indicators, which showed a 0.8% rise, after an

amended 0.3% fall in July, 0.2% in June and 0.4% in May.

These, however, came after an April increase of 1.7%. The August index included a 1.7% rise in imports, which was offset by a 0.6% decline in retail sales.

At the same time, the Central Bureau of Statistics published data indicating the slowdown in the economy is not showing signs of bottoming out.

The number of hired workers decreased an annualized 2.5% in the four months to August, while the number of hours worked fell 1% during the same period.

Between May and July, industrial production only increased at a monthly 0.2%, compared with the 0.3%-0.5% seen between November 1997 and April of this year.

There was also an annual 4% decline in sales from April to July in the commercial sector, which includes retail and wholesale outlets, as well as hotel and catering companies and other service industries.

This sharp decline follows a stable second half last year and slight falls during the first quarter of 1998.

Exchange prepares Lorenzi rescue deal

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The elected management of the Diamond Exchange in Ramat Gan has worked out a bailout plan for the country's second largest diamond exporter, Lorenzi Diamonds, which is facing serious cash-flow problems, industry sources said yesterday.

The compromise agreement calls for Lorenzi to pay part of its debt while postponing the rest of the payments for a period of up to three years. The sources added, however, that they doubt the banks will actually endorse such a plan.

"The exchange is trying to reach an agreement that will prevent its members from getting hurt, but the banks will not necessarily agree to such a plan," one source said. He added that the banks have assurances for part of the debt and, therefore, if the compromise is adopted they will have to write off part of the debt so Lorenzi can pay other diamond dealers. The source said that since Lorenzi is believed to have no cash, it is expected to pay other dealers in diamonds.

The "Diamond Exchange" fears that if Lorenzi collapses it will create a domino effect that will force other dealers to close. One of the proposals circulating in the industry is that Lorenzi will start by paying its debt to local dealers and banks, and refrain from transferring money overseas. Banking sources said the plan was presented to representatives of Bank Leumi, United Mizrahi Bank, and Israel Discount Bank yesterday afternoon. Further details were not available.

Lorenzi owes the three banks some \$60m., while his debt to fellow diamond dealers is estimated at another \$40m. The main question is how Bank Mizrahi will act, since the lion's share of Lorenzi debt, \$30m., is owed to that bank.



Financially speaking

The European Union's finance ministers and central-bank governors pose in the Austrian State Library on Saturday for a group photo following an informal discussion of the global financial situation as well as tax policies within the EU. The gathering failed to reach agreement over who would represent the euro zone in the IMF and World Bank. (AP)

Telecom Italia to fire 6.5% of its workforce in \$24b. revamp plan

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

ROME - Telecom Italia SpA, Italy's former telephone monopoly, said it plans to invest \$24 billion in foreign expansion and new technology, cut 8,000 jobs and sell assets as its home turf opens up to rivals.

The three-year development plan adopted by the board over the weekend calls for average sales growth of more than seven percent, compared with 6.6% in the first half this year. It wants to at least main-

tain profit margins.

It's the first time Rome-based Telecom Italia has outlined its strategy since the world's eighth-largest telephone company was sold off by the state last year, and since Italy's fixed-line market was opened to competition January 1.

"This plan is still short on details," said Maurizio Piglia, a trader at Banca Akros in Milan. "All it says is that they will spend a lot of money, without spelling out how and on what."

Telecom Italia said it plans to invest 25 trillion lire (\$15 billion) in new networks, equipment and technologies in 1999-2001. It will earmark an additional 15 trillion lire for "financial investments to sustain the group's foreign expansion."

By the end of 2001, Telecom Italia wants foreign units to account for some 30% of total sales. It said it will finance all these investments solely from cash flow. The company - which already operates in countries such as Greece, Spain,

France, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Ukraine - wants to expand abroad through acquisitions, sharing assets with other phone companies, partnerships and alliances.

The company said the board discussed its alliance talks with Cable & Wireless Plc, the second-largest UK telephone company, and with Unisource NV, a group comprising the Netherlands' KPN NV, Swisscom AG and Sweden's Telia AB. It didn't provide details. (Bloomberg)

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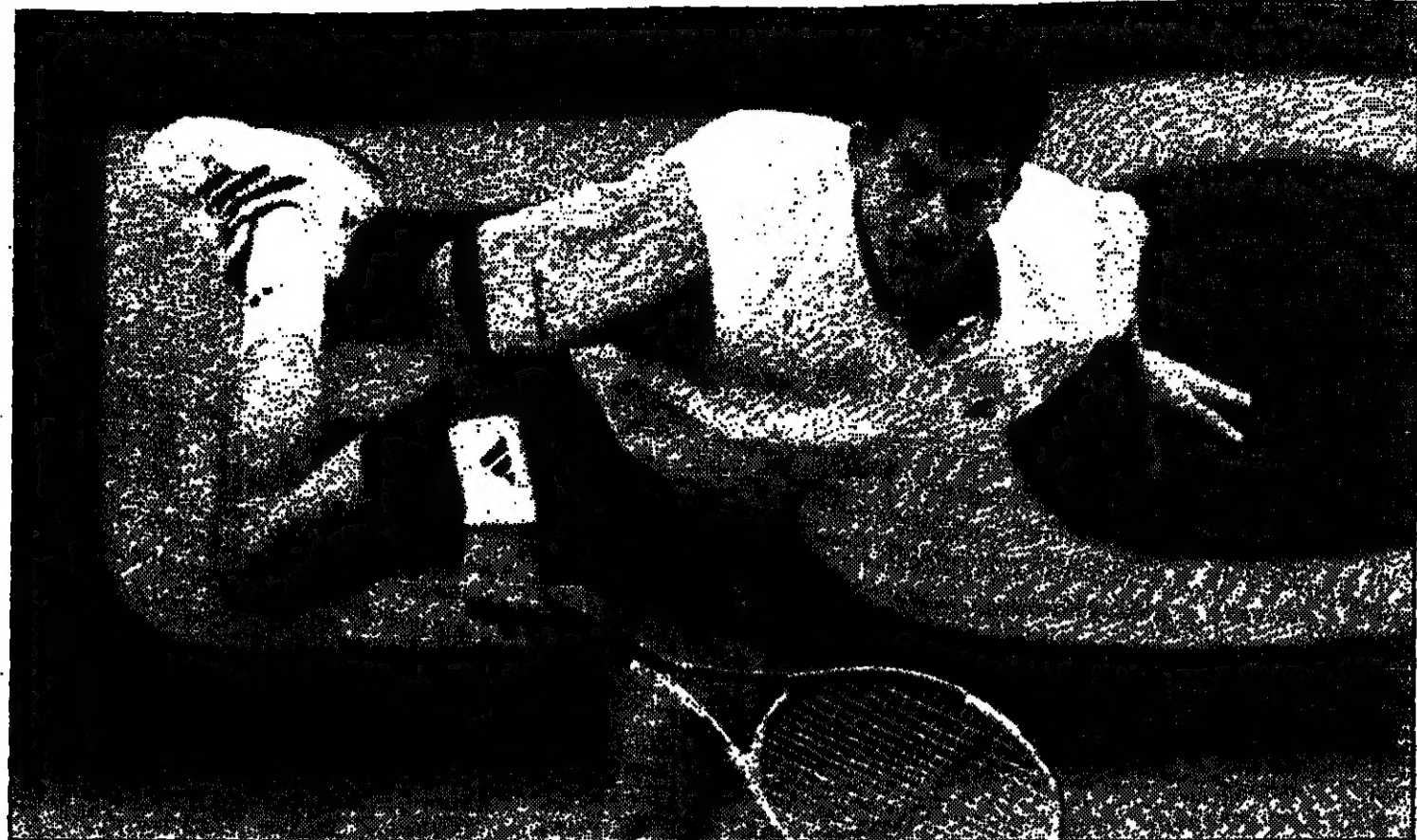
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Sweden eliminates Spain in Davis Cup



AT YOUR SERVICE - Britain's Tim Henman serves to Leander Paes of India during their match yesterday. Henman won the match 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, 7-6 (7-5)

Levy upsets Pioline

By HEATHER CHAIT

Israel's tennis team retrieved some of their lost pride yesterday by winning a singles rubber on the last day of the Davis Cup tie against France in Ramat Hasharon. The final result, 4-1 to France, propels the visitors into the 1999 World Group and leaves Israel in the European group.

With the tie safely wrapped up in the French court at 3-0 on Saturday, Harel Levy, ranked 217 in the world, upset the French No. 1 player Cedric Pioline (18), 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Until Levy's match yesterday, Israel had failed to take even one set off the French, receiving a complete drubbing in the first two days.

Levy was circumspect about his performance. "Although the final result was known and Pioline was not at his best, it's still a good win," he told Israel Radio. "Personally I benefited from playing against people in the top 50

and I'm sure it'll help me in my future career."

In the second singles match yesterday, Nicolas Escude (39), replacing Guillaume Raoux, beat Amir Hadad (32) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

An unexpected presence at the Canada Stadium came from two members of the Palestinian Tennis Association, Iman Arafat, Vice-President of the PTA and Suleiman Shurafa, the honorary president, were hosted by Dedi Harnik, Chairman of the Israel Tennis Association, with whom they discussed mutual interests.

Among the issues raised was Israeli and Palestinian cooperation towards building a tennis center in Gaza and a doubles exhibition match featuring Israeli-Palestinian teams.

"The visitors were very impressed with our players and seemed genuinely interested in working together with the ITA, especially in the realm of tournaments for seniors," said Harnik last night.

STOCKHOLM (AP) - Jonas Bjorkman beat Carlos Moya 6-3, 7-5 yesterday for his third match victory in the Davis Cup semifinals this weekend as defending champion Sweden eliminated Spain 4-1.

Julian Alonso picked up the only point for Spain in the last "dead" singles match, winning 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) against Davis Cup newcomer Thomas Johansson. Alonso replaced Spanish second-string Alex Corretja.

The 13th-ranked Bjorkman, 26, started with a four-set win Friday over seventh-ranked Corretja and then clinched Sweden's 12th trip to the final by winning Saturday's doubles with Nicklas Kulti in straight sets.

Bjorkman, who hates to lose even "dead" matches, came from 1-4 in the last set to beat Moya and give the Swedes a 4-0 lead.

"I have a good Davis Cup record and I'd rather improve it than lose," Bjorkman said.

"Maybe I didn't feel any pressure, but it's always nice to beat Moya before next time we meet," he said.

The defending champions will face Italy, which took an unbeatable 3-0 lead over the United States in the other semifinal in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the December 4-6 final in Italy.

Last year, the Swedes trounced the United States 5-0 in the final at Göteborg, Sweden, led by Bjorkman and Kulti in the doubles.

Bjorkman was a member of the Swedish team that won the 1994 final 4-1 against Russia in Moscow, where he only played doubles. In 1996, when France edged Sweden 3-2 at Malmoe, Sweden, Bjorkman also played doubles only.

"Even though I've won the final twice, it's always nice to get a third one," Bjorkman said.

Bjorkman may only get doubles duty in the final if host Italy picks clay as playing surface.

"I think they'll choose clay and that means it will be difficult for me to get a singles spot," said Bjorkman, whose weakest surface is clay.

"But I'm definitely going to try anything I can to be able to play singles. But it might be that the clay court guys have to step in and play the final."

Sweden is the most successful Davis Cup nation in the last two decades with six wins. Former great Bjorn Borg led Sweden to its first triumph in 1975 at Stockholm's Royal Tennis Hall, the site of the semifinals against Spain.

Britain-India

Tim Henman defeated Leander Paes of India 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) to move Britain into next year's World Group, the elite 16 of the Davis Cup, for the first time since 1992.

In the second singles yesterday - meaningless to the outcome - India's Mahesh Bhupathi beat Chris Wilkinson 6-3, 6-4 as Britain advanced 3-2 in the best-of-five tie.

Henman's deciding win in just over two hours gave Britain an unbeatable 3-1 lead. Britain won

Friday's two singles but India stayed alive with a doubles win Saturday as Paes and Bhupathi defeated Henman and Neil Broad.

"It just shows how important the tiebreaks are," Henman said. "We lost both yesterday in doubles and we won both today and that was probably the difference."

"It was an important match to get back into the World Group and it was nice to come through," Henman added. "We've got the team that deserves to be among the top 16 nations."

Added coach David Lloyd, "I think it's extremely important for

British tennis. Hopefully, we can get a good draw and win it."

The match, delayed 45 minutes by rain, saw Henman take a 4-2 lead in the first set, but Paes - the India No. 1 - rallied to force a tiebreaker.

In the tiebreaker, Henman went up 6-3 as Paes missed two volleys and then won with a backhand service return that Paes hit into the net.

Henman won the second set in 29 minutes as Paes won the first game but lost the next five. The third set also went to a tiebreaker after Henman blew an early lead.

Di Canio set for misconduct charge

LONDON (Reuters) - Sheffield Wednesday's Paolo Di Canio is set to be charged with misconduct by the English Football Association today following Saturday's incident at Hillsborough when he shoved a referee to the ground.

"The likelihood is there will be a charge of misconduct as soon as we have the reports in first thing on Monday morning," FA chief executive Graham Kelly told BBC radio yesterday.

Di Canio left English football and referee Paul Alcock reeling on Saturday when he reacted furiously to being sent off in the Premier League match against Arsenal by shoving the official in the chest,

causing him to fall to the ground.

The 30-year-old Italian was suspended by his club after the match, which Wednesday won 1-0, and seems sure to incur a lengthy ban and a heavy fine.

"The rules in the FA book are wide and fairly well known," said Kelly when asked how severe a sanction Di Canio was likely to face.

The FA has been quick to crack down on pitch violence by players in the past. Former France and Manchester United striker Eric Cantona was suspended for eight months after a notorious kung-fu kick on a Crystal Palace supporter in 1995.

Eagles remain winless as Chiefs gain close victory

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The Eagles scored a few touchdowns and even got the Philadelphia crowd on their side. They did just about everything against Kansas City except win, for their worst start in 26 years.

Philadelphia native Rich Gannon's 57-yard completion to Joe Horn in the fourth quarter set up Dorell Bennett's third touchdown run as the Chiefs escaped with a 24-21 victory over the winless Eagles Sunday.

The Eagles, who scored 15 points in their first three games, made it close when Rodney Peete passed to Duce Staley for a 17-yard TD with 61 seconds left. But the Chiefs (3-1) recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock.

Cardinals 20, Rams 17

The Cardinals felt right at home back in St. Louis.

Arizona scored 14 points in a 50-second span of the second quarter and won its St. Louis homecoming.

Joe Nedney's 29-yard field goal with 4:04 to play gave Arizona (2-2) its second straight win. The score was set up by a 43-yard pass interference penalty on Dexter McCleon.

The game was the Cardinals' first regular-season contest in St. Louis since owner Bill Bidwell took the team to Arizona from St. Louis following the 1987 season.

Raiders 13, Cowboys 12

Jason Garrett finally lost his winning touch.

Garrett, subbing for injured Troy Aikman, suffered his first loss in four career starts when the host Cowboys lost.

Trailing 13-10, the Cowboys were driving for the potential winning touchdown when Garrett was intercepted by Eric Turner in the Oakland end zone with 1:31 left to clinch the win for the Raiders.

Packers 37, Panthers 30

When you've got one of the best defenses in the NFL on your side, there's no need to panic about a poor start. Just ask Brett Favre.

Overcoming a first half in which his two interceptions helped host Carolina take a 10-point lead, Favre threw for 388 yards and five touchdowns to rally the Green Bay Packers to a 37-30 victory.

Green Bay limited Carolina to 13 first downs, including just five in the first 52 minutes, helping the Packers to their first 4-0 start since 1966, the year they won the inaugural Super Bowl.

Saints 19, Colts 13 (OT)

The boys from New Orleans came through, and we're not talking about Peyton Manning and Marshall Faulk.

Danny Wuerffel passed for touchdowns of 15 yards to Andre Hastings with 41 seconds left in regulation and 33 yards to Cameron Cleeland at 8:50 of overtime, giving the visiting Saints victory over the winless Indianapolis Colts.

Jaguars 27, Oilers 22

Another close game, another victory for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

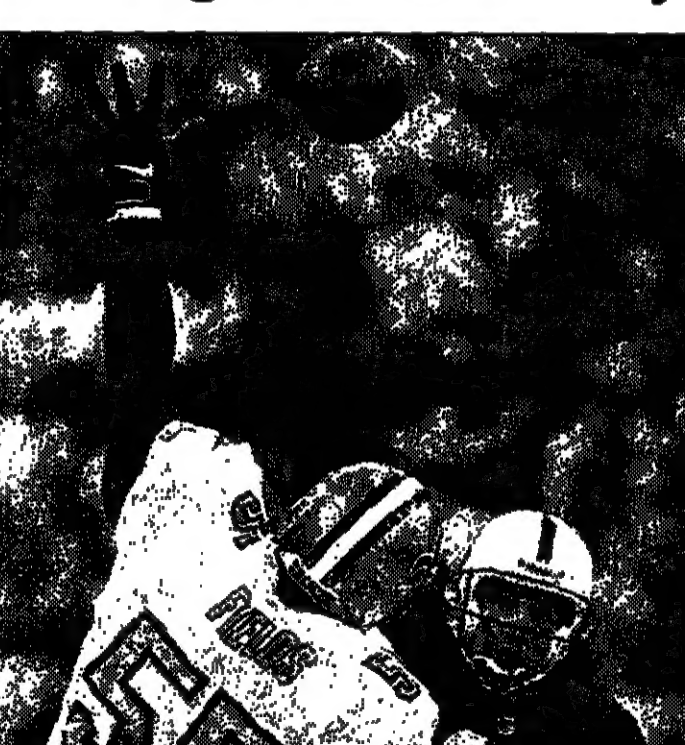
Mike Hollis kicked two field goals in the fourth quarter and Fred Taylor rushed for 116 yards as the Jaguars came from behind to win for the best start in the team's short history.

On a day when Mark Brunell struggled and the Jaguars (4-0) turned the ball over three times, the defense led the way with five sacks and two interceptions.

The Oilers (1-3) took a 19-14 halftime lead by controlling the ball for more than 19 minutes. But the Jaguars turned the tables in the second half behind Taylor.

The rookie, starting for the injured James Stewart, had only 33 yards in the first half on 10 carries. He finished with 25 carries as the Jaguars played keep-away, holding the ball for more than 21 minutes in the second half.

When the Oilers did get the ball, they couldn't move it. They finished with their worst offensive performance this season with 219 yards total offense.



AWAY SHE GOES - Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning throws a pass over New Orleans' linebacker Mark Fields.

AP's top 25 college football teams

How the top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll fared this week:

No. 1 Ohio State (3-0) did not play. Next vs. No. 7 Penn State, Saturday.

No. 2 Nebraska (4-0) beat No. 9 Washington 55-7. Next: at Oklahoma, Saturday.

No. 3 UCLA (2-0) at Miami, ppd., hurricane. Next vs. Washington State, Saturday.

No. 4 Tennessee (3-0) beat Houston 42-7. Next: at Auburn, Saturday.

No. 5 Kansas State (4-0) beat Northeast Louisiana 62-7. Next: at Colorado, Oct. 10.

No. 6 LSU (3-0) beat Idaho 53-20. Next vs. No. 13 Georgia, Saturday.

No. 7 Penn State (3-0) did not play. Next: at No. 1 Ohio State, Saturday.

No. 8 Florida (3-1) beat Kentucky 51-35. Next: at No. 22 Alabama, Saturday.

No. 9 Washington (2-1) lost to No. 2 Nebraska 55-7. Next vs. No. 16 Arizona, Saturday.

No. 10 Florida State (3-1) beat No. 18 S. Calif. 30-10. Next: at Maryland, Saturday.

No. 11 Virginia (4-0) beat Duke 24-0. Next vs. San Jose State, Saturday.

No. 12 Syracuse (4-0) did not play. Next: at North Carolina State, Oct. 7.

No. 13 Georgia (3-0) did not play. Next: at No. 6 LSU, Saturday.

No. 14 Wisconsin (4-0) beat Northwestern 38-7. Next: at Indiana, Saturday.

No. 15 Colorado (4-0) beat Baylor 18-16. Next: at Oklahoma, Saturday.

No. 16 Ariz. (4-0) beat San Diego St. 35-16. Thurs. Next: at Utah, Saturday, Oct. 3.

No. 17 Texas A&M (3-1) beat North Texas 28-8. Next: at Kansas, Saturday.

No. 18 South. Calif. (3-1) lost to No. 10 Florida State 30-10. Next: Ariz. St., Saturday.

No. 19 West Virginia (2-1) beat Tulsa 44-21. Next: at Navy, Saturday.

No. 20 Oregon (4-0) beat Stanford 63-28. Next: at Washington State, Oct. 10.

No. 21 Virginia Tech (4-0) beat Pittsburgh 27-7. Next: at Boston College, Oct. 8.

No. 22 Alabama (2-1) lost to Arkansas 42-8. Next vs. No. 8 Florida, Saturday.

No. 23 Air Force (3-1) lost to Texas Christian 35-34. Next vs. New Mexico, Saturday.

No. 24 Notre Dame (2-1) beat Purdue 31-30. Next vs. Stanford, Saturday.

No. 25 Missouri (2-1) did not play. Next vs. Northwestern State, Saturday.

Europe's Davis Cup dreams are US nightmares

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - US captain Tom Gullikson could only dream of the kind of problem his Swedish counterpart Carl-Axel Hageskog has - which of his nation's top players to leave off the Davis Cup team.

Hageskog, along with most of his European colleagues, need merely mention the word Davis and before Cup rolls off their tongues, the roster is over-flowing with top-ranked players.

Gullikson, meanwhile, is left to beg, cajole and coax whomever is left after endorsement obligations, muscle strains, fatigue and myriad other reasons whittle down his list of candidates.

"We don't really ever have trouble getting our players to play. Davis Cup is a great source of pride and the players grow up with this feeling so naturally they want to play," Hageskog, Sweden's captain, said as his team completed a 4-1 semifinal victory over Spain yesterday.

They will face Italy in the final in December. "It's too bad that some other countries cannot always get their best to come out, but you can't only blame the players. But sometimes the reasons for not playing are very good. It's up to each player to decide," Hageskog added.

That decision came easily to three of the four finalists in this year's competition. Not coincidentally, they were all European.

Sweden fielded three of their top four players in Jonas Bjorkman, Thomas Johansson and Magnus Larsson with only Thomas Enqvist - who has been plagued by a string of injuries - failing to make the team.

"We have had plenty of singles players to challenge for the Davis Cup and when you have that competition you play well. No one, including myself, can be sure to



Top US players, like Andre Agassi, find little encouragement to play in the Davis Cup.

play. That is why we are so strong," Bjorkman said.

And even Enqvist was on hand for the weekend tie to cheer his compatriots on against Spain, whose team featured the country's two top players, world number five Carlos Moya and seventh-ranked Alex Corretja.

"I always enjoy the Davis Cup atmosphere, it's something that I try never to miss," Enqvist said.

"The US was forced to field a team that did not include world number one Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi or Michael Chang, their top three players."

Their problem seems clear: apathy. Even though the US has won the Cup 31 times, the American public sees little value in the event and many American players are of the same opinion.

After fighting through crippling cramps and horrendous conditions to help the US beat Russia for the Cup in 1995, Sampras complained he came home to little more than some kind words from friends and relatives.

ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

Arafat called on the international community and "all peace-loving people" to help ensure the implementation of the final status agreement before May 4. "This is a date with Israeli, Palestinian, American, Russian, European, Arab, and international legitimacy," Arafat said.

"I want and I hope that the independence and the declaration of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil will be carried out within the framework of an international celebration, with the participation of the countries that have signed agreements with us - namely, the US, Russia, the EU, Norway, Jordan, Egypt, Japan, and naturally Israel."

Statehood can be achieved through the "honest and precise" implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, said Arafat, who did not rule out a unilateral declaration.

A draft of Arafat's speech shows that he significantly watered down the tone of his words in the presentation. According to the original speech, he had intended to say, "On that day [May 4] either our basic choice of reaching an agreement is realized... or we will have no choice but to unilaterally declare the establishment of the Palestinian state."

The above lines were scratched out on the draft by Arafat himself.

He drew applause with a strong condemnation of violence: "I would like to repeal our policy of zero tolerance for terror and violence, which I will continue fighting without hesitancy and without any linkage to the stalled peace process."

Israel Radio reported last night that Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza leaders Uri Ariel and Benny Kasriel flew unexpectedly to the US in order to meet with Netanyahu before his meeting with Clinton.

Albright met with both Arafat and Netanyahu Saturday night, and was scheduled to meet Netanyahu for a third and final meeting last night.

The sides would not comment on the details of the meetings, but Israeli officials say they feel the Palestinians have become a "little more flexible."

Sources close to Netanyahu said there is a good chance for a second redeployment signing on the White House lawn soon after the holidays.

Netanyahu told CNN yesterday that Israel's agreement with the US was "almost complete about the amount of land that we would hand over. It is territory that is uninhabited by Palestinians, but is very important for our security."

He said the remaining issue was "to make sure that the land that we hand over to the Palestinians does not become a base for continued terrorist attacks against Israel."

Israel Radio reported last night that Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon would soon be appointed foreign minister by Netanyahu and would also be responsible for final status talks. Sharon's office did not deny the report, the radio added.

SHROEDER

Continued from Page 1

Paying his respects to the statesman Kohl as "a powerful opponent," Schroeder said his party had been elected on a pledge to modernize Germany and to help the depressed eastern states catch up with the prosperous west.

Taking a cue from Britain's Tony Blair, Schroeder ran his successful campaign under the election motto of Die neue Mitte - the New Center.

"We proved the New Center concept is the correct one for Germany and Europe," he said and he pleaded with Germans to form with him "an alliance for jobs," coming back to the unemployment theme, which emerged as the greatest worry of German voters.

Kohl's CDU won 35.1%, losing 50 seats for an estimated new total of 244.

The Greens, who are expected to form the so-called "red-green coalition" government, won 6.7%, 47 seats.

The PDS party, the heir of the former

state Communist Party in East Germany, surprised pundits by passing, for the first time, the 5% minimum ballot threshold, taking 37 seats.

Kohl suffered a humiliating setback when he lost his home district of Ludwigshafen to Social Democratic candidate Doris Barnett, the local election commissioner said.

Barnett won 47.9% of the vote in the district compared to 40.8% for Kohl, who had won his home district in 1990 and 1994.

The election campaign has been a cliffhanger for the past week, as opinion polls indicated that voters were struggling to reconcile their desire for change with their innate conservatism and love of stability.

Schroeder campaigned vigorously on the government's failure to tackle unemployment - four million Germans are jobless - while Kohl campaigned equally strongly on his record as the unifier of Germany and the symbol of its progress and stability.

Reuters contributed to this report.

RIOTS

Continued from Page 1

"But many jumped onto this platform, including the Islamic Movement and some council heads, at a time when the municipal elections are in the offing. There's no doubt that they cynically jumped onto this platform, with narrow-mindedness and lack of forethought and afterward they complain about the police opening fire," said Ron.

For three weeks this shack had, until this morning, been there as an illegal building in a military firing zone. There are no such illegal buildings in any other IDF firing zone.

"Regarding the olive groves, nobody was stopped from entering the groves and tending the trees, but they decided to act as they did," he said.

Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk visited the scene to try to calm tempers. "I believe that the situation will quiet down [during the night], but we will be deployed and prepared to prevent any attempts to close the main road," he said.

Wilk also rejected allegations that the police had used excessive force or that their "fingers had been too light on the trigger." Around a dozen people were arrested during the disturbances, which quieted around 10:30, and the Wadi Ara road was reopened.

In the meantime, with the backing of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, a compromise was put forward to allow the disputed land to be used until December and allow time for negotiations for a solution. Last night the Israeli Arab leadership convened to discuss the compromise.

Artyeh Dean Cohen added: Education Minister Yitzhak Levy condemned the incidents in Umm el-Fahm, which also included the participation of local teachers and pupils. Levy criticized the "political exploitation" of the pupils by elements in the Islamic Movement, and ordered the director of the ministry's northern district to report to him about the situation, and the condition of pupils or teachers wounded in the clashes.

RAJOUB

Continued from Page 1

Sources close to Rajoub said the information provided by Khassib led to the capture of an Izzadin Kassam cell in Hebron. A senior aide to Rajoub said Khassib provided the GSS with information that led to the killing of an unidentified Hamas fugitive.

Rajoub aides said he intends to make political use of the confession. They said he has told Hamas leaders that unless they stop accusing him of helping Israel in the recent killing of Adel and Imad Awadallah, he will broadcast the video confession on PA television.

Rajoub, along with other PA security officials, has maintained that several GSS informers are operating inside Hamas.

Senior Israeli defense officials who deal with the PA refused to comment on Rajoub's assertion. They said they have not been informed of any confession by any Hamas member or of plans by

Rajoub to publicize it.

The episode arose as Mohammed Dahlan, commander of the Preventive Security Service in Gaza, told the PA-aligned daily Al-Hayat al-Jadeeda that his agency has enlisted many of what he calls "our brothers in other organizations" opposed to the agreement, and I have considered this to be a personal goal.

Dahlan said the PA recruitment of Izzadin Kassam members has resulted in a huge fight with Israel and the US. He said 25 Hamas members have been brought into PA security agencies to protect them from being extradited to Israel for terrorist acts.

"Israel accuses them of being the hard-core military infrastructure of the Izzadin Kassam brigades," Dahlan said. "We arrested them in the past for various security-related matters, but we saw no reason to continue to detain them. We said very clearly to the Israelis that an attack on any of them would be an attack on the entire Palestinian Preventive Security Service."

A season to remember

Mark McGwire sent the first signal way back in March.

His grand slam on opening day did more than start the rush to Roger Maris's record. He was telling us, right there and then, that big things were on deck for 1998.

Were they ever.

A home-run race for the ages and a sight to behold: Sammy Sosa running in from right field to embrace McGwire on the night of No. 62.

MY CALL

By Ben Walker

A startling scene in Baltimore: Cal Ripken on the

bench, telling his manager, "I think the time is right" and ending his incomparable streak of 2,632 consecutive games.

Pitching performances that defied all odds: Rookie Kerry Wood striking out 20 in his fifth major league start, David Wells throwing the 13th perfect game in modern history and coming close to another. Roger Clemens winning 15 in a row.

An expansion year full of hefty numbers, as expected: The New York Yankees winning the most games in AL history and three teams winning 100 games. And the Florida Marlins taking the worst tumble by a World Series champion.

Heavy hitters galore: A home-run chase that reinvigorated the sport and captivated the nation. Juan Gonzalez and Sosa going for the most RBIs in 60 years, and the first season with more than two players topping 50 homers. The highest-scoring All-Star game ever.

Huge trades: Mike Piazza going from Los Angeles to Florida to the Mets, Randy Johnson joining Houston. Shakeups at Dodger Stadium, with Tommy Lasorda in and then out as general manager.

Award races down the final day: Clemens, bidding for his record fifth AL Cy Young, or maybe it'll be Pedro Martinez or Wells.

Gonzalez or Mo Vaughn or Nomar Garciaparra or one of the Yankees for the AL MVP. Greg Maddux or Tom Glavine or Kevin Brown for the NL Cy Young.

Plus some positive signs for the future: An increase in attendance and Bud Selig taking the "interim" off his title and turning into a full-time commissioner.

It's been that kind of wild season right from the start, when the Milwaukee Brewers played their first game as a member of the National League.

The Arizona Diamondbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays brought something new to baseball, along with a lot of young pitchers and nearly 100 losses each. At Bank One Ballpark, there was a swimming pool beyond the right-center field fence and at Tropicana Field, there was a cigar bar.

While the decimated Marlins stumbled to the worst record in the majors—"We stunk," manager Jim Leyland said—the Yankees recovered from an 0-3 start and spent the year

making history. With Bernie Williams and Derek Jeter dueling for the AL batting title, the Yankees clinched a playoff spot in late August and broke the league record of 111 wins, first set by the 1954 Cleveland Indians.

In the home-run race, Maris's 37-year-old mark was passed twice in less than a week.

McGwire set the pace until Sosa hit a record 20 in June. From then on, fans began following the chase game-by-game, at-bat by at-bat.

A quick note to naysayers: Even though this is an expansion season, the overall home-run rate is exactly the same as last year's level.

Along the way, there were other issues. McGwire's use of the muscle-building supplement androstenedione was revealed in an Associated Press story and sparked a national debate, as did an umpire's fan-interference ruling that cost McGwire a home run.

The rivalry between McGwire and Sosa, meanwhile, spawned a friendship that helped unite them and their fans.

Hours before McGwire hit No. 61, he and Sosa sat biceps to biceps at Busch Stadium, praising each other and offering predictions for the future.

"Wouldn't it be great if we just ended up tied?" McGwire said. "I think it would be beautiful."

The next night, McGwire reached the goal that had been demanded of him since the first day of spring training, hitting No. 62. He hugged his son, the Maris family and Sosa in celebration.

At that instant, with fireworks exploding overhead and the whole country cheering, it seemed like baseball had reached its zenith for 1998.

But just think—there isn't even an October chill in the air yet. (AP)

McGwire belts 2 homers for 68

ST. LOUIS—With three teams battling for the National League wild card berth on the penultimate day of the season, Mark McGwire seized the spotlight on Saturday by belting his 67th and 68th home runs to reclaim the lead in the race for the major league single season record.

In a game with no playoff implications, McGwire went deep in the fourth and seventh innings of the St. Louis Cardinals' 7-6 loss to the Montreal Expos to take a two-homer lead over Chicago Cubs star Sammy Sosa in the fight for baseball's most revered record.

After homering off Montreal starter Dustin Hermanson in the fourth to snap a tie with Sosa at 66 home runs, McGwire clubbed a 1-1 pitch from Kirk Bullinger into left-center field bleachers in the seventh, tying the game at 6-6 with his 68th.

Montreal plated the winning run in the ninth against reliever Mike Buehrer (5-2) when Orlando Cabrera led off with a triple and scored on Scott Livingstone's double.

But the loss did nothing to quell the enthusiasm of the St. Louis fans who came to see their hero hit a home run and get a double dose of "Big Mac."

Cubs 3, Astros 2

Sosa failed to hit a home run, but he figured in a crucial victory over the host Astros that kept the Chicago Cubs tied for the lead in the NL wild card race.

With the game tied 1-1 in the eighth, Sosa and Mark Grace singled and both scored on Gary Gaetti's double into the left-center field gap.

The win kept the Cubs even with the streaking San Francisco Giants with one game remaining for each team. If they finish the season tied, a one-game playoff today will determine the wild card.

Giants 8, Rockies 4

Stan Javier homered twice to



Sammy Sosa runs for first as he hits his second single during the Cubs 3-2 win against the Astros Saturday. (Reuters)

ing Giants, who trailed host Chicago by five games just nine days earlier, won their sixth straight and remained tied with the Cubs.

With the score 1-1, San Francisco broke open the game with a five-run fourth. Orel Herschler (11-10) allowing four runs and eight hits in 5 1/2 innings.

Colorado's Larry Walker went 3-for-4 with his 23rd homer to raise his league-leading average to .362, nine points ahead of New York's John Olerud. Darryl Kile (13-17) gave up seven runs and 10 hits in six innings.

Wild Card standings

National League	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	89	72	.553	—
San Francisco	89	72	.553	—
New York	88	73	.547	1

Schedule:
CHICAGO (1) — AWAY (1): Last night, Houston.
SF (1) — AWAY (1): Last night, Colorado.
NEW YORK (1) — AWAY (1): Last night, Atlanta.

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	105	56	.657	—
New York	88	73	.547	17
Philadelphia	74	86	.463	30 1/2
Montreal	65	96	.404	40
Florida	53	107	.331	50 1/2
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	101	60	.627	—
Chicago	89	72	.553	12
St. Louis	82	79	.509	19
Cincinnati	76	85	.472	25
Milwaukee	74	87	.458	27 1/2
Pittsburgh	69	92	.429	32
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	97	64	.602	—
San Francisco	89	72	.553	8
Los Angeles	82	79	.509	14 1/2
Colorado	76	85	.472	21
Arizona	65	96	.404	32

x-district division title

NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING — J. Walker, Colorado, .362; Olerud, New York, .353; Bichette, Colorado, .331; Biggio, Houston, .328; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .327; Piazza, New York, .327; Vazquez, Montreal, .323.

RUNS — Sosa, Chicago, 132; McGwire, St. Louis, 128; Bagwell, Houston, 123; Biggio, Houston, 123; Chones, Atlanta, 122; Rolan, Philadelphia, 118; Bonds, San Francisco, 118.

RBI — Sosa, Chicago, 157; McGwire, St. Louis, 143; Castilla, Colorado, 142; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 125; J. Walker, San Francisco, 125; A. J. Ayres, Houston, 124; Bichette, Colorado, 122.

HITS — Bichette, Colorado, 218; Biggio, Houston, 210; Castilla, Colorado, 205; Vazquez, Montreal, 200; DeBell, Houston, 197; Vina, Milwaukee, 196; Olerud, New York, 195.

HOME RUNS — McGwire, St. Louis, 68; Sosa, Chicago, 66; Vaughn, San Diego, 49; Castilla, Colorado, 45; Galarraga, Atlanta, 44; Vazquez, Montreal, 38; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 38; A. J. Ayres, Houston, 38.

STOLEN BASES — Womack, Pittsburgh, 58; Biggio, Houston, 50; E. Young, Los Angeles, 42; Rivera, Florida, 41; Bonds, San Francisco, 28; A. J. Ayres, Atlanta, 27; Floyd, Florida, 27.

PITCHING (18 Decisions) — Smoltz, Atlanta, 17-3, 2.50, 2.90; Glavine, Atlanta, 20-5, 2.89, 2.47; A. J. Ayres, New York, 17-6, 2.39, 2.47; Gardner, San Francisco, 13-5, 2.22, 4.27; K. Brown, San Diego, 18-7, 2.20, 2.38; Reynolds, Houston, 19-8, 2.04, 3.51; Wood, Chicago, 13-6, 2.84, 3.40.

STRIKEOUTS — Schilling, Philadelphia, 300; K. Brown, San Diego, 257; Wood, Chicago, 233; Reynolds, Houston, 209; G. Maddux, Atlanta, 201; Park, Los Angeles, 184; A. J. Ayres, New York, 174.

SAVES — Hoffman, San Diego, 52; Beck, Chicago, 50; Shaw, Los Angeles, 47; New, San Francisco, 40; J. Franco, New York, 38; Urbina, Montreal, 34; Lichtenberg, Atlanta, 30; B. Wagner, Houston, 30; Olson, Arizona, 30.

Braves 4, Mets 0

Visiting New York (88-73) lost its fourth straight and dropped out of a tie for the wild-card race. The Mets, which have five runs in their last 35 innings, needed to win last night while hoping both Chicago and San Francisco would lose.

Andrew Jones hit a two-run double in the sixth off Al Leiter (17-6). The Braves became the 12th NL team this century to win at least 105 games, the first since the 1986 Mets won 108-54.

Martins 4, Phillies 3

Curt Schilling became the fifth pitcher in major league history to strike out 300 batters in consecutive seasons, fanning Kevin Orie in the seventh inning of a double-header opener.

Orie was Schilling's seventh and final strikeout victim of the game. Schilling, who struck out 319 last season, joined J.R. Richard (1978-79), Nolan Ryan (1972-74 and 1976-77), Sandy Kousser (1965-66) and Rube Waddell (1903-04) as the only pitchers to accomplish the feat.

Diamondbacks 3, Padres 2

Matt Williams hit his 29th career homer and Gregg Olson got his 30th save. Coupled with Tampa Bay's 6-1 loss to the New York Yankees, the victory gave the Diamondbacks (65-96) expansion supremacy for the year. The Devil Rays cannot finish with more than 64 wins.

Reds 6, Pirates 2

Eddie Taubensee hit a three-run homer and Pete Hamisch (14-7) became the Reds' first 14-game winner since Pete Schourek went 18-7 in 1995.

Brewers 6, Dodgers 1
Marquis Grissom homered twice and Scott Karl pitched shutout ball for six innings as visiting Milwaukee won.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Yankees 3, Devil Rays 1

David Cone allowed just one run and four hits in seven shutout innings to win his 20th game as host New York Yankees won its sixth straight game.

Cone (20-7), scheduled to pitch Game 3 of the playoffs against Texas, struck out eight and walked one, setting a record for most years between 20-game seasons (10). Cone, 20-3 for the New York Mets in 1988, surpassed the mark set by Jim Kaat, who went 25-13 for Minnesota in 1966 and 21-13 for the White Sox in 1974.

Indians 9, Twins 5

David Justice homered and tied a career-high with five RBIs as visiting Cleveland stopped a five-game losing streak and clinched the home-field advantage in the first

round of the playoffs. The Indians open tomorrow against Boston. Manny Ramirez added a two-run double, giving him 145 RBIs.

Orioles 5, Red Sox 2

Bret Saberhagen gave up homers to B.J. Surhoff and Eric Davis in his postseason debut as visiting Baltimore, out of the playoffs for the first time since 1995, beat Boston.

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 4

Roger Clemens finished the season unbeaten in his final 22 starts but didn't get a decision as host Toronto defeated Detroit in 13 innings.

Clemens, who won his final 15 decisions after a loss to Cleveland on May 29, was trying to tie Walter Johnson, Smokey Joe Wood, Lefty Grove and Schoolboy Rowe for the AL record for most consecutive winning decisions in a season. The major league record of 19 is shared by Tim Lincecum (1888) and Rube Marquard (1912).

Mariners 5, Rangers 2

Visiting Texas, which clinched the AL West on Friday, stumbled in its bid for home-field advantage in the AL playoffs, losing to Seattle as Edgar Martinez went 4-for-4 with his 29th home run and two doubles.

Athletics 4, Angels 3

Rickey Henderson singled in the winning run in the ninth inning. White Sox 13, Royals 5

Frank Thomas and Albert Belle hit consecutive home runs in the fifth inning and rookie Brian Simmons hit his first two major league homers. The four major runs raised Chicago's total to a team-record 196, one more than the White Sox hit two years ago. (Reuters, AP)

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING — B. Williams, New York, .336; M. Vaughn, Boston, .336; Belle, Chicago, .328; D. Justice, New York, .325; Garciaparra, Boston, .323; Rodriguez, Texas, .321; Martinez, Seattle, .321; T. Fernandez, Toronto, .321.

RUNS — D. Justice, New York, 126; Durham, Chicago, 126; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 122; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 120; Knoblauch, New York, 116; Edmonds, Anaheim, 115; J. Vazquez, Montreal, 113.

RBI — J. Gonzalez, Texas, 157; Belle, Chicago, 149; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 148; M. Ramirez, Cleveland, 145; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 124; Martinez, New York, 123; Garciaparra, Boston, 121; R. Palmeiro, Baltimore, 121.

HITS — A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 212; M. Vaughn, Boston, 203; D. Justice, New York, 202; Belle, Chicago, 197; Garciaparra, Boston, 194; J. Gonzalez, Texas, 192; O'Neil, New York, 180.

HOME RUNS — Griffey Jr., Seattle, 56; Belle, Chicago, 48; Canseco, Toronto, 46; M. Ramirez, Cleveland, 45; J. Gonzalez, Texas, 45; R. Palmeiro, Baltimore, 43; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 42.

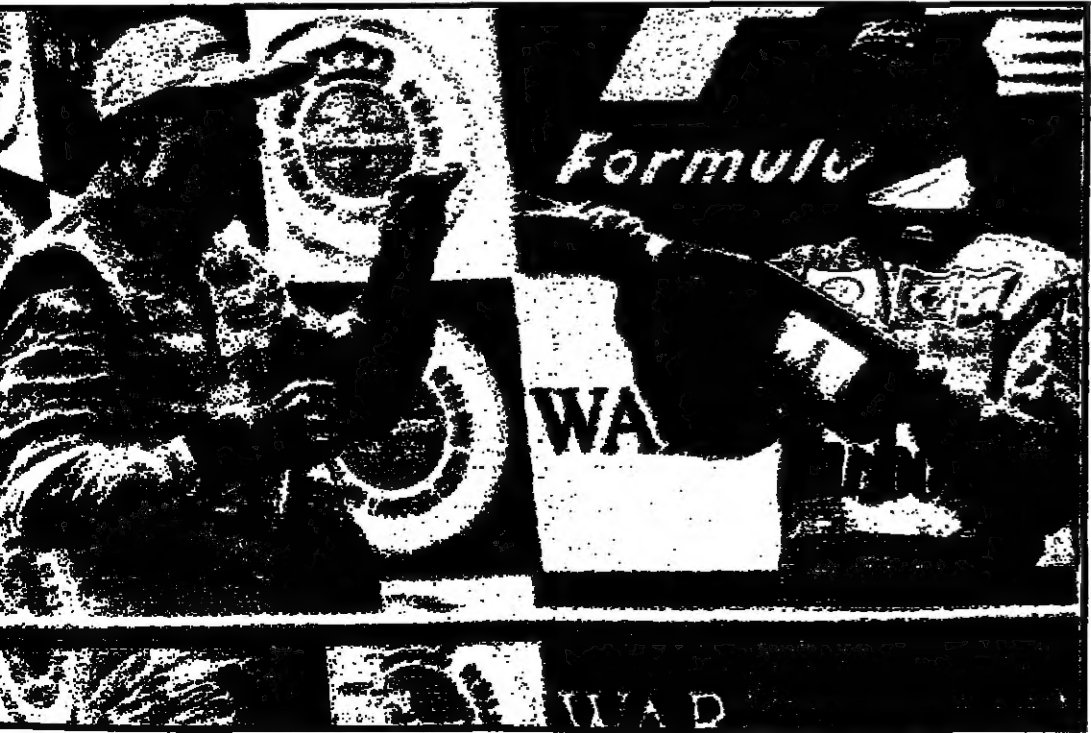
STOLEN BASES — Henderson, Oakland, 66; Lofton, Cleveland, 54; Stewart, Toronto, 51; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 45; O. Lirio, Kansas City, 45; B. Hunter, Detroit, 42; T. Gooden, Texas, 37; V. Zuzov, Cleveland, 37; Nixon, Minnesota, 37.

PITCHING (18 Decisions) — D. Wells, New York, 18-4, 2.18, 3.49; Clemens, Toronto, 20-8, 2.89, 2.85; Helling, Texas, 20-7, 2.41, 4.41; Cone, New York, 20-7, 2.41, 3.55; P. Martinez, Boston, 19-7, 2.31, 2.89; Wakefield, Boston, 18-8, 2.67, 3.17.

STRIKEOUTS — Clemens, Toronto, 271; P. Martinez, Boston, 251; R. Johnson, Seattle, 213; C. Finley, Anaheim, 212; Cone, New York, 209; Erickson, Baltimore, 186; Fassero, Seattle, 176.

SAVES — Gordon, Boston, 45; Percival, Anaheim, 42; Wetteland, Texas, 42; Jackson, Cleveland, 40; Aguilera, Minnesota, 38; M. Rivera, New York, 36; J. Montgomery, Kansas City, 35.

Hakkinen wins Luxembourg Grand Prix ahead of Schumacher



Michael Schumacher sprays Finnish driver Mika Hakkinen with champagne after Hakkinen won the Luxembourg Grand Prix yesterday. Schumacher finished second. (AP)

NUERBURGRING, Germany (AP) — Mika Hakkinen seized the lead in the Formula One championship when he won yesterday's Luxembourg Grand Prix by holding off Michael Schumacher, his only rival for the title.

In a close battle between the two title contenders, Hakkinen twice beat Schumacher out of the pit stops and preserved his lead to capture the penultimate race of the season.

"Yes, indeed, this win is fantastic," Hakkinen said. "It makes my situation a lot different than it was two hours ago." The championship will now be decided in the final race November 1 in Suzuka, Japan.

Hakkinen picked up 10 points for his seventh win of the season to open a four-point lead over Schumacher, 90-86. The two drivers went into the race tied on 80 points.

In the final race, Hakkinen can afford to finish second and still clinch his first Formula One championship.

"It was great to win today, but nothing is over yet," said Hakkinen, who turned 30 today. "The fight continues and we have to have very good preparation for the final race."

Schumacher, starting from the pole, was upstaged at the start of the 67-lap race by Ferrari teammate Eddie Irvine, who was also in the front row. Irvine had a faster start and was ahead of Schumacher into the first turn.

But just before the first lap was over, Schumacher moved into the lead.

The German started pulling away and opened a five-second lead over Hakkinen's McLaren-Mercedes, with Irvine holding up the Finn.

Hakkinen finally passed Irvine in the 14th lap and began closing the gap by consistently putting in the fastest time lap after lap. But Hakkinen's left front wheel locked in a turn on lap 17 and the gap grew again to eight seconds.

By lap 22, the gap was down to five seconds as Hakkinen's McLaren consistently drew closer.

Schumacher made his first pit stop for fuel and new tires on lap 25 and Hakkinen zoomed into the lead, driving another fastest lap.

Hakkinen made his stop on lap 28 and came out just ahead of Schumacher, who had been slowed down by traffic.

"I was quite surprised that he came out ahead," Schumacher said. "I knew it would be tight but I thought I could still be ahead." "All in all I am surely a bit disappointed," said Schumacher, who is chasing his third Formula One title and trying to become the first Ferrari driver to become champion since Jody Scheckter in 1979.

"After the first pit stop, we had no chance. We have to accept that we were not fast

enough in this race. But we are four points behind and it's still not lost," the 29-year-old German said.

For the next few laps the gap between the two remained under a second and halfway into the race, Schumacher was tailgating Hakkinen, just 6 seconds behind the Finn.

But on lap 43, Schumacher had problems holding his line coming out of two turns and Hakkinen's lead grew to 1.8 seconds and increased to 2.2 seconds three laps later.

Schumacher pitted for the second time on lap 48, Hakkinen one lap later and the Finn again came out ahead of the German, 2.9 seconds faster, with the gap growing to five seconds in a few laps.

Hakkinen maintained his lead until the end, losing a couple of seconds in the last lap. He finished the race distance of 305.235 kilometers (189.667 miles) in one hour, 32 minutes, 14.789 seconds, beating Schumacher by 2.2 seconds at the checkered flag.

David Coulthard in the second McLaren was third, while Irvine finished fourth. Heinz-Harald Frentzen in a Williams was fifth, while Giancarlo Fisichella in a Benetton finished sixth.

Dark clouds threatened throughout the race, but the weather stayed dry.

Although the race is officially called the Luxembourg Grand Prix, it is actually held across the border in Germany.

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eliminates
Spain

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Wimbledon
move up
to third

LONDON - Leicester's Matt Elliott scored in the 88th minute yesterday to salvage a 1-1 draw, negating Robbie Earle's header for Wimbledon in the 74th at Leicester.

Earle rose well at a free kick to put the London side ahead. They looked to be heading towards a victory, but then Elliott headed home three minutes before the end.

A victory would have moved Wimbledon into second place behind league-leading Aston Villa in the Premier League. Instead, Wimbledon moved into third behind Derby, both with 12 points. Aston Villa's 1-0 home victory Saturday over Derby on Paul Merson's 15th-minute strike kept the Birmingham side atop the league with 17 points and an unbeaten record in seven league games.

Five teams have 11 points - Newcastle, Manchester United, Leeds, Liverpool, and Chelsea - and Arsenal has 10.

In First Division action yesterday, Crystal Palace defeated Sheffield United 1-0. (AP, Reuters)

McGwire hits 69, 70 to cap season

Mets out
of playoff
contention

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Mark McGwire ended his season as mightily as he started it. McGwire hit his 69th and 70th homers on the season's last day, a fitting finale for a record-smashing year he began with a grand slam on opening day.

Big Mac, who hit five homers on the final weekend, connected against Montreal rookie Mike Thurman in the third inning yesterday, then homered off Carl Pavano for No. 70 in the seventh. McGwire moved four ahead of Sammy Sosa and ended nine - nine - in front of Roger Maris' old record.

McGwire hit a 1-1 fastball 377 feet (115 meters) into the left-field seats for No. 69. After stomping on home plate, he took a few slow steps, then made several salutes to the crowd.

The usual sellout crowd that had stood well before his at-bat demanded and got not one, but two, curtain calls.

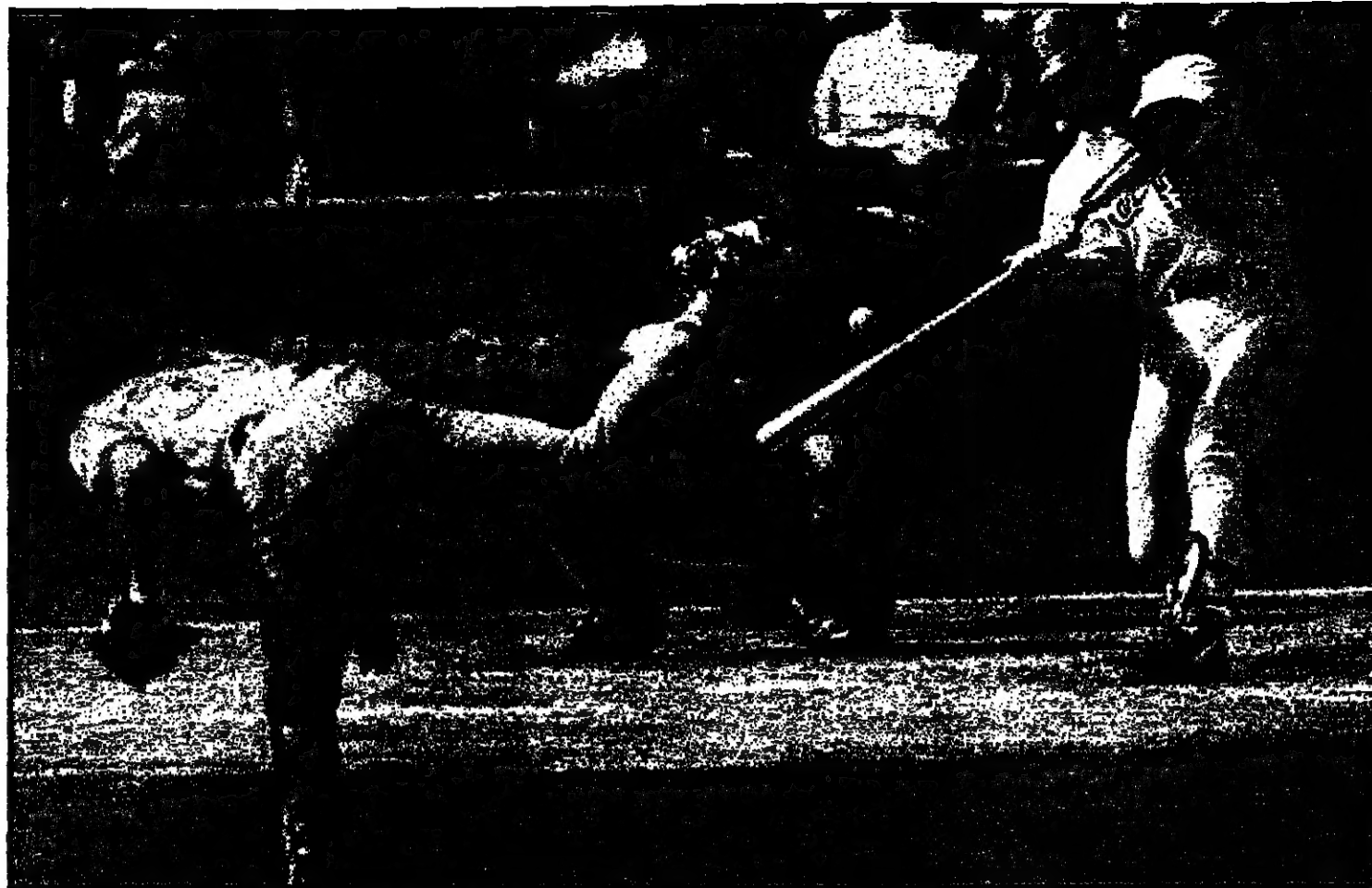
Kerry Woodson, a 22-year-old body shop worker from Maryland Heights, Missouri, wound up with the ball and said he didn't know what he would do with it.

"I reached up, closed my eyes, and it landed in my glove," Woodson said. "It's a dream come true. I hope he doesn't hit any more today." He didn't get his wish.

With two on and two outs in the seventh and the score 3-0, he connected off Pavano (6-9), lining a first-pitch fastball 370 feet over the left-field wall, sending the Cardinals on to a 6-3 win over the Expos.

This time, even a curtain call from McGwire didn't quiet the 46,110 fans, who remained on their feet, cheering even as Brian Jordan took a called third strike for the third out of the inning.

The second home run ball landed in a party box and was snared by Phil Ozerski of Olivette, Missouri, attending the game



GOING OUT IN STYLE - Mark McGwire hits home run No. 69 against the Expos' Mike Thurman.

(Reuters)

with a group of Washington University research lab scientists.

McGwire, who has 10 multi-homer games this year and 53 in his career, hit a go-ahead homer for the 24th time this season.

He opened the year with a slam on March 31 against the Dodgers' Ramon Martinez, then led the home run race all season except when Sosa twice passed him briefly - and then for only 103 minutes in all.

Sosa led for 58 minutes on August 19 before McGwire regained went back ahead with his 48th and 49th homers in the same game at Chicago. Sosa led for 45 minutes on Friday when he hit his 66th before McGwire answered.

Yesterday was the Cardinals' final game of the season. Sosa's Cubs, who played at Houston,

did not know if their regular season would end or if there would be a playoff game for the NL wild-card spot.

Before connecting Friday, McGwire had been homerless in 14 at-bats.

Braves 7, Mets 2
A disastrous final week for the New York Mets ended with a miserable last day.

The Mets, who had a one-game lead in the NL wild-card race going into their final five games, were eliminated from the playoffs with a 7-2 loss to the Atlanta Braves.

Contending for their first post-season appearance since 1988, the Mets bombed out, going 0-5 and scoring just seven runs in their last 44 innings.

New York, which dropped out of a three-way tie by losing 4-0 Saturday, began yesterday one game behind Chicago and San Francisco, needing a victory over the Braves and losses by both the Cubs and Giants to force a three-way playoff. Atlanta, which has won seven straight division titles,

quickly ended that illusion with a four-run second inning.

Unlike the Mets, who wasted numerous chances during the three-game sweep, the Braves scored their first six runs with two-outs hits and went on to their team-record 106th win. They open the playoffs Wednesday against either the Cubs or Giants.

Over the final week, New York was shut out twice. During three days in Atlanta, the Mets stranded 32 runners - 11 on Sunday - and left the bases loaded four times.

After falling behind 5-0, the Mets closed to 5-2 in the seventh and had the tying run at the plate with one out. But Mike Piazza - who stranded 15 runners in the series - struck out against Dennis Martinez, and Brian McRae went down swinging against John Rocker.

Atlanta sealed the victory with RBI doubles by Eddie Perez in the seventh and Chipper Jones in the eighth.

The Braves pounded Mets starter Armando Reynoso (7-3), who lasted only 1 1/2 innings and gave up five runs and six hits.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Yankees 8, Devil Rays 3

Bernie Williams went 2-for-2 to win the AL batting title and rookie Shane Spencer hit his third grand slam in nine days as the New York Yankees ended their incredible regular season.

Appearing in peak form for the start of the AL playoffs tomorrow night, the Yankees (114-48) won their seventh straight. With a .704 winning percentage, New York became the first team since the 1954 Cleveland Indians (111-43) to play better than .700 ball over an entire season.

New York, which won the second-most games ever behind the 1906 Cubs (116-36), opens the postseason at home against Texas.

Williams had a pair of singles and a sacrifice fly to end the season with a .339 average - two points better than Boston's Mo Vaughn, who went 2-for-4 yesterday - and become the first member of the Yankees to win the batting title since Paul O'Neill hit .359 in the strike-shortened 1994 season.

Spencer, called up from the minors for the fourth time this season on August 31, got the start in left field because manager Joe Torre wanted to see how he fared against a right-hander. The answer was provided loud and clear against reliever Albie Lopez in the fifth when Spencer hit his 10th homer of the season and his eighth this month, a line shot over the wall in left-center.

In other early games yesterday, it was Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 1; Boston 6, Baltimore 4; Toronto 2, Tigers 1; Minnesota 6, Cleveland 2.

Mac. TA
rolls over
Ra'anana

By ELI GROSSER

What a difference three days make. After getting crushed in its EuroLeague opener on Thursday night, Maccabi Tel Aviv bounced back with an authoritative win over Maccabi Ra'anana, one of the best teams in the National Basketball League. But Tel Aviv has little time to relax. Another big test awaits the yellow and blue on Thursday in the form of Efes Pilsen.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 79
Maccabi Ra'anana 61

Maccabi Tel Aviv had a lot to prove after Thursday's humiliating EuroLeague loss to Panathinaikos, and the Israeli champs wasted no time venting their collective frustration before cruising past the Ra'anans at Yad Eliyahu.

Tel Aviv exploded out of the gate to a 20-10 lead, before extending the advantage to 39-22 at the half, effectively putting the game out of reach.

Ra'anana coach Arif Shihak said that while one shouldn't judge his team based on a road game against Maccabi, he wouldn't excuse his club's shoddy performance. "We played poorly and didn't take advantage of several opportunities," he said.

Willie Anderson paced the victors with 17 points and five assists. Doron Sheffer led Maccabi's scorers with 19 points and Victor Alexander chipped in 15.

Despite the decisive win Maccabi's performance left a lot of pre-game questions unanswered. While the play of Americans Anderson and Alexander was improved, the third foreigner, Nikolai Lunark, scored only seven points while looking lost at times on offense.

For Ra'anana, Mark Brisker tallied 15 points one day after receiving a five-day restraining order from the police after hitting his wife. Chris Smith added 14 (all in the first half).

Gaili Elyon 73, Mac. Haifa 71
Alon Stein buried a short-range fallaway jumper with only five seconds remaining to win the tie for bragging rights in the north. Theo Citiciz led the victors with 16 points.

Other scores last night: Hapoel Lezion 92, Hapoel Tel Aviv 66; Hapoel Holon 71, Maccabi Ramat Gan 67.

Maccabi Tel Aviv	W	L	Pts.
Gail Elyon	2	0	4
Maccabi Rishon	2	0	4
Maccabi Ra'anana	1	1	3
Maccabi Haifa	1	1	3
Hapoel Holon	1	1	3
Maccabi Ramat Gan	0	2	2
Hapoel Tel Aviv	0	2	2
Hapoel Jerusalem	0	1	1
Givati Shmuel	0	1	1
Hapoel Eilat	0	1	1
Bnei Herzliya	0	1	1

NBA makes 'new' offer

NEW YORK (AP) - The new collective bargaining proposal from NBA owners looks almost exactly like their last offer, according to the players union.

"We're still trying to find out where they moved off their last proposal," union director Billy Hunter said last week after the document arrived at the office of the National Basketball Players Association.

"Generally, it still deals with a hard salary cap. They have not moved or retreated from their position." It was the first formal offer made by the owners since May 27. The union will prepare a detailed response to be presented to the owners tomorrow, said Hunter, who would not reveal the specifics of the proposal.

League officials did not comment on the proposal, but if it real-

ly looks like the last one then it calls for a four-year phase out of the Larry Bird exception and an absolute limit to the amount of basketball-related income (BRI) that can be paid toward player salaries.

Player payroll costs now account for 57 percent of BRI. In the owners' May 27 proposal, they asked that the percentage be scaled back over four years to 48%.

To: Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

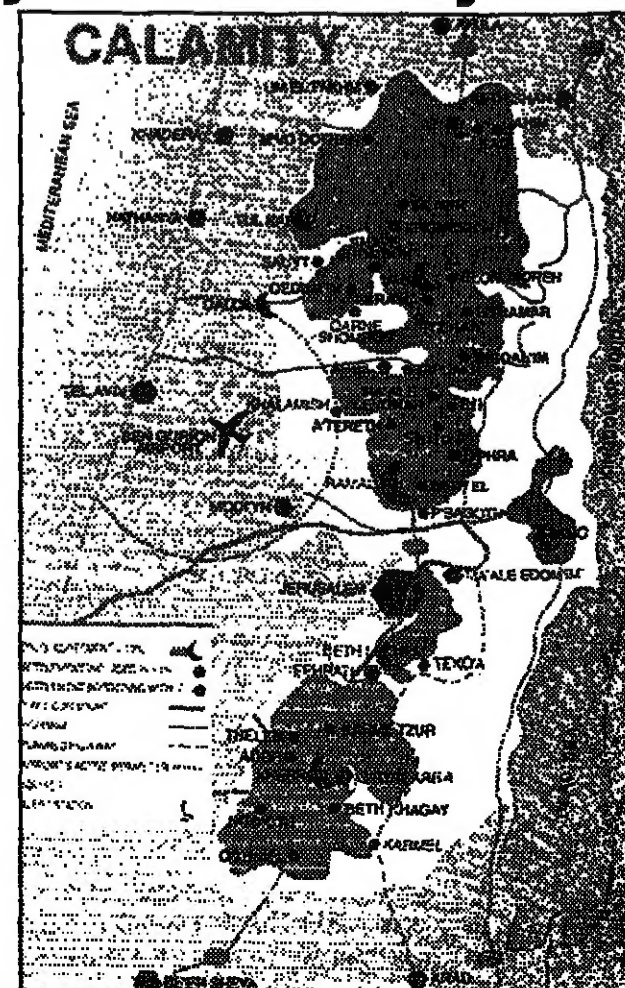
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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Tuesday High/Low	Wednesday High/Low	Thursday High/Low
Ariel	33/21	34/22	34/23	34/23
Beersheba	30/18	31/19	31/20	31/20
Dead Sea	30/17	31/18	31/19	31/19
Eilat	34/20	35/21	35/22	35/22
Haifa	20/14	21/15	21/16	21/16
Jerusalem	27/14	28/15	28/16	28/16
Katzi	34/20	35/21	35/22	35/22
Netanya	30/17	31/18	31/19	31/19
Tel Aviv	30/17	31/18	31/19	31/19
Tiberias	30/17	31/18	31/19	31/19

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Tuesday High/Low	Wednesday High/Low	Thursday High/Low
Amsterdam	16/6	16/6	16/6	16/6
Berlin	16/6	16/6	16/6	16/6
Bombay	30/26	31/27	31/28	31/28
Buenos Aires	18/8	18/8	18/8	18/8
Calcutta	30/26	31/27	31/28	31/28
Chicago	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Hong Kong	30/26	31/27	31/28	31/28
London	16/6	16/6	16/6	16/6
Los Angeles	23/7	23/7	23/7	23/7
Madrid	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Moscow	12/3	12/3	12/3	12/3
New York	16/6	16/6	16/6	16/6
Paris	16/6	16/6	16/6	16/6
Rio de Janeiro	31/23	32/24	32/25	32/25
Rome	23/7	23/7	23/7	23/7
Sydney	25/7	25/7	25/7	25/7
Tokyo	16/6	16/6	16/6	16/6
Warsaw	16/6	16/6	16/6	16/6
Washington	22/8	22/8	22/8	22/8
Zurich	16/6	16/6	16/6	16/6

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

Sept 29 Oct 5 Oct 12 Oct 20